Opposition petition vs state of rebellion junked

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2001 ★★★ 78 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 152 ₱15

8 Senate bets tangle in the Grand Debate

BY CELINE R. MADAMBA

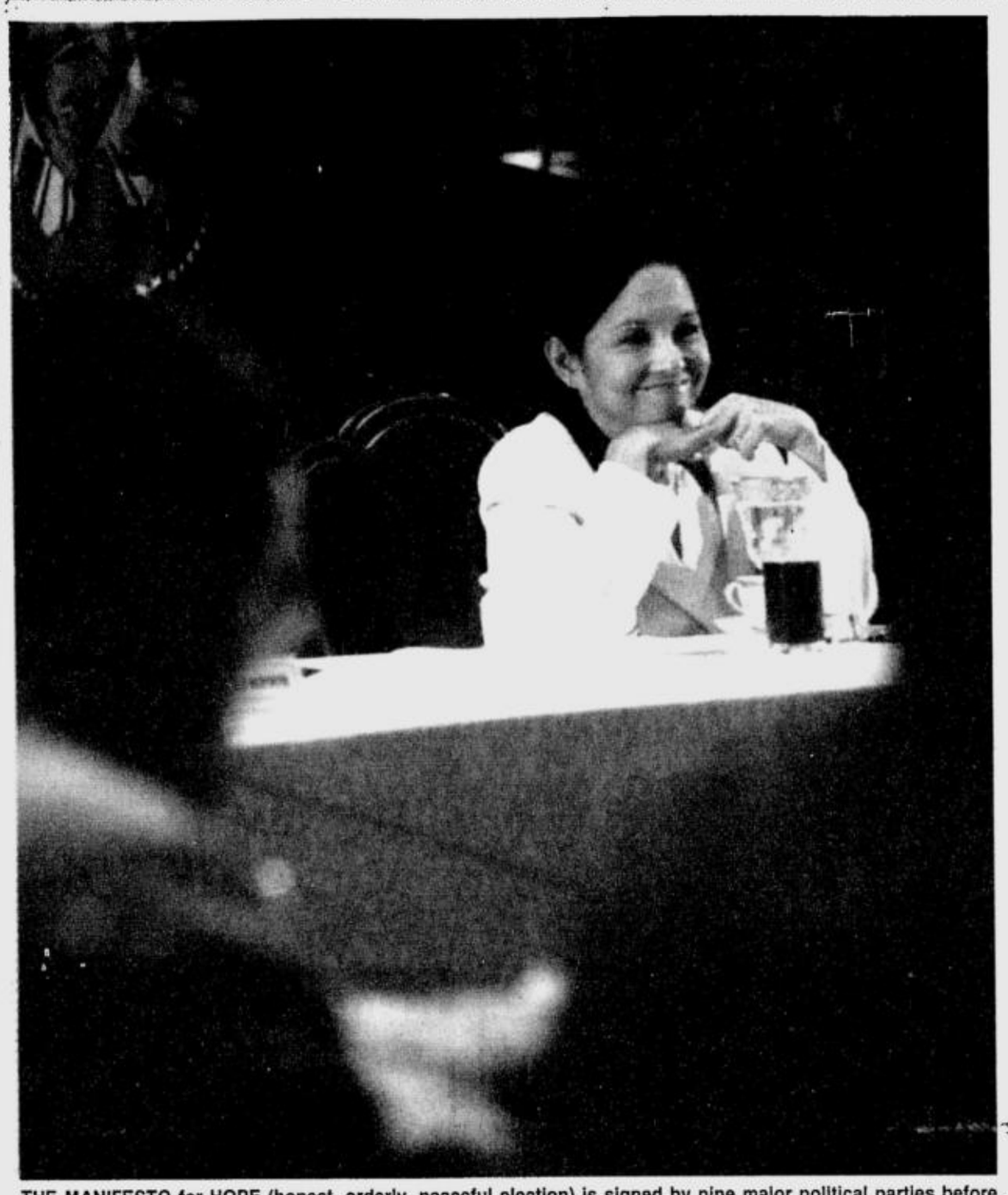
EIGHT senatorial candidates of different parties will discuss the key issues of this year's elections during the Grand Senatorial Debate to be aired tomorrow over the GMA Network.

The Grand Debate, sponsored by the GMA Network and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, will

8 SENATE/ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

120 killed in football stampede
WORLD / A11
Gov't plans to sell SMC stake
BUSINESS/ B1
US says its market open to Asia
BUSINESS/ B13
RP reserves dip on debt servicing
BUSINESS/ B14



THE MANIFESTO for HOPE (honest, orderly, peaceful election) is signed by nine major political parties before Comelec officials, the police and military and accredited citizen's arms at the Palace during a special meeting called by President Macapagal. JOAN BONDOC

76 areas listed as hot spots

LP campaign rally in San Juan bombed

BY GERALD LACUARTA, JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND AGNES DONATO

A BOMB went off under a parked jeep near the *miting de avance* of Liberal Party reelectionist Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales and other local candidates at 9:45 last night, slightly injuring at least 13, police said.

The blast damaged several vehicles outside St. John's Academy in Pinaglabanan, San Juan, where the LP campaign rally was being held, witnesses said.

Singer Freddie Aguilar's Ford Expedition was among the damaged vehicles, according to a report on GMA-7's late night news.

Eight people, most with minor injuries, were brought to the nearby Cardinal Santos hospital. Gonzales' driver was the most seriously hurt by shards from the explosion, hospital staff said.

Police had no suspects as of last night, but Gonzales, who is running against former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, said the attack could have been "politically motivated."

Rep. Noynoy Aquino, LP secretary general, said no candidates were hurt and that the bomb attack was apparently intended more to "generate fear" than to actually injure anyone.

76 AREAS/ A20

Maceda, JPE deny power deal

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN, RIANNE C. TECSON
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

CEBU CITY—Former Ambassador to Washington Ernesto Maceda and reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday turned the tables on President Macapagal-Arroyo, as they denied her claim that they sent emissaries to negotiate a power-sharing agreement with her during Edsa III.

Both said that it was the President's camp that sent feelers to her jailed predecessor, Joseph Estrada, to meet with him on the

MACEDA/ A20

GMA allows Honasan, Lacson to campaign

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, ARMAND NOCUM AND CHRISTINE HERRERA

EXPECT opposition senatorial candidates on the run, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, to attend the *miting de avance* today of their party, Puwersa ng Masa-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (PnM-LDP).

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo allowed Honasan and Lacson, accused of plotting a coup attempt, to surface from hiding and campaign without threat of arrest.

But LDP president Edgardo J. Angara said it was no "act of magnanimity" on the part of the Macapagal administration.

Malacañang had no other option but to allow the two major stars of the opposition Senate slate to campaign freely "because there is no solid case against them," Angara said.

"Malacañang fears a Supreme Court rebuff on the rebellion charges filed against leaders of the opposition. It decided to allow the campaign of Ping and Greg to avoid a potentially embarrassing situation," he added.

LDP secretary general Agapito Aquino had asked the Macapagal administration to allow Honasan and Lacson to be allowed to campaign freely during the signing of a covenant for a peaceful and orderly election in Malacañang yesterday. *(Story above.)*

"Your request is approved," snapped Ms Macapagal. Her surprising remarks were followed by silence and then laughter.

The President's Chief of Staff Renato Corona branded Aquino's request as a gimmick.

"There is no warrant of arrest so

GMA/ A7

Was 'state of rebellion' necessary?

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, DONNA S. CUETO AND CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on internal security and defense, said he would look into reports that the Macapagal administration had "manufactured" evidence to justify the imposition of a week-long "state of rebellion" following the May 1 attack on Malacañang.

Biazon said he would initiate the investigation in the Senate when the 12th Congress resumes work in August.

He noted that the administration had released information to justify the imposition of a state of rebel-

WAS/ A20

More coup financiers on AFP list

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE MILITARY has identified more people who allegedly financed the failed power grab attempt against President Macapagal-Arroyo, a senior military intelligence official yesterday said.

The military intelligence official disclosed that Camp Aguinaldo had come up with a list of suspected financiers longer than that prepared by two ranking police intelligence officers.

"We have more personalities on our list," said the military intelligence officer, who asked not to be named.

"But we are still verifying all our raw information and gathering strong evidence against those on the list," the official said.

Teresita Ang See, spokesperson for the Citizens Action Against Crime (VACC), said a reported intelligence report on the financiers of the failed coup plot would have a negative effect on the government.

In a statement, Ang See said the report smacked of witch-hunting and of downright racism.

She scored the unidentified authors of the report for releasing their findings without checking their facts first.

Last Tuesday, the INQUIRER reported that the Philippine National Police had come up with the intelligence report linking businessmen

MORE/ A20

No kidding, Joker on Marcos' list

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

HAVE the Marcos loyalists learned to forgive and forget?

Marcos loyalists yesterday named the 13 senatorial candidates they would support in Monday's election and curiously, the list was a mix of former Marcos lieutenants and oppositionists that fought martial law.

The True Marcos

NO KIDDING/ A18

Erap guards stricter after PDI interview

BY VOLT CONTRERAS, JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PROMINENT, non-political personalities like veteran actress Nida Blanca and award-winning film director Eddie Romero were not allowed to enter the detention house of Joseph Estrada the other day, a source close to the Estradas said yesterday.

His jail guards have become stricter, to the further chagrin of the ex-President, his family and friends, after he granted on Sunday an exclusive interview to the INQUIRER at his detention house in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

The source said his police sentries at the Fort Sto. Domingo have started barring visitors who are not

ERAP/ A20

SUDDEN SUMMER RAINS EDWIN BACASMAS

No, it isn't the rainy season yet that is still expected in the last week of May. But yesterday's downpour was a foretaste with traffic clogged at Edsa. According to Pagasa, the foul weather is due to typhoon Crising. Expect more rain today.

Second FRONT PAGE

'MOOT AND ACADEMIC'

Petition vs state of rebellion junked

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE SUPREME Court voted 8-3 last night to dismiss petitions from the opposition questioning President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of rebellion and the legality of warrantless arrests.

The SC noted that the lifting of the declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila by President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 6 rendered the petitions moot and academic.

The court also dismissed charges that Malacañang resorted to the declaration of a state of rebellion to justify making warrantless arrests.

"The Secretary of Justice denies (he) issued a particular order to arrest specific persons in connection with the 'rebellion.' He states that what is extant are general instructions to law enforcement officers and military agencies to implement Proclamation 38 (the declaration of a state of rebellion)," the court said.

Petitions had been filed separately by opposition senatorial candidates Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, as well as the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino questioning the legality of Proclamation 38.

In particular, Santiago filed a petition for mandamus, charging that Ms Macapagal had suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus "whether she cares to admit it or not."

Lacson, along with associates Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, filed for prohibition, injunction, mandamus and habeas corpus to pre-empt a warrantless arrest. They are wanted on charges of rebellion in connection with the assault on Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada on May 1.

Estrada supporter and People's Movement Against Poverty head Ronald Lumbao filed his own petition saying the declaration of a state of rebellion violated the doctrine of the separation of powers.

The justices who voted to dismiss the petitions were Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Jose A.R. Melo, Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Vicente Mendoza, Artemio Panganiban, Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes and Jose Vitug.

Dissenting were Santiago Kapunan, Bernardo Pardo and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

Justices Leonardo Quisumbing, Arturo Buena and Consuelo Ynares-Santiago are on leave.

In the case of the LDP, the SC twitted its petition saying it "was not a real party-in-interest" to the case.

"The rule requires that a party must show a personal stake in the outcome of the case or an injury to itself that can be redressed. Petitioner is a juridical person not subject to arrest, thus it cannot claim to be threatened by warrantless arrests," the SC maintained.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda were the first to question the legality of their arrests without warrants and their detention at Camp Crame following the bloody siege of the Palace on May 1.

Both were accused of rousing the crowd of Estrada supporters to attack Malacañang.

Prosecutors eventually allowed Maceda's release after they decided to charge him only with conspiracy to commit rebellion, instead of rebellion, which is a non-bailable offense.

The SC, meanwhile, ordered Enrile released after noting that evidence presented by prosecutors against him was "hearsay."

Also yesterday, government prosecutors submitted a video compact disk (VCD) of the speeches made by allies of Estrada at the Edsa Shrine hours before the bloody attack on Malacañang.

Composed of footage taken from Net 25's live coverage of the event, the VCD will form part of the evidence against opposition leaders who will be charged with rebellion.

After the SC decision and in the wake of the lifting by Ms Macapagal of the state of rebellion, Honasan and Lacson will no longer be the subjects of warrantless arrests.

A joint comment submitted by various government agencies to the Supreme Court Wednesday said the Department of Justice and police authorities now intend to "obtain regular warrants of arrests" from the courts for offenses committed "prior to and until May 1, 2001."

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee told reporters this means Honasan and Lacson will undergo regular judicial procedures when they turn themselves in.

Summer's not over yet

METRO MANILA will continue to have rains until today due to the active low pressure area which is now moving northward off Mindoro. But weathermen said the rainy season is still a week away.

Dr. Frisco Nilo, Pagasa chief weather forecaster, said the rainy season will actually start on the third or last week of May.

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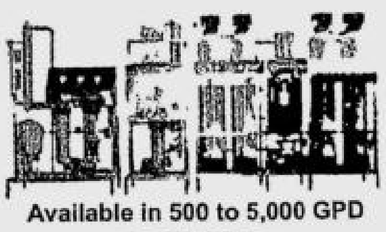

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The **OPIFPI** Head Office notifies all coordinators who attended the Pre-Summit Conference held in Cagayan de Oro and Davao City last April 5 & 6, that the schedule for the **SUMMIT CONFERENCE** in Cagayan de Oro will be published in all national Newspapers one week before the conference's schedule. Preparation for the **Certificate Issuance** is still going on. Launching for the **BBD Int'l** will be scheduled after the Summit Conference. The following names are notified to prepare all required documents through the **blue card**. Instruction for the leaders will be relayed to their CEO and Comptroller. God Bless you all!

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No 'sonas' Macapagal tells poor

BY MARTIN MARFIL

SO, WERE there *sonas* in parts of Metro Manila recently or were they just a figment of somebody's active imagination?

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday visited one of the areas said to have been the scene of such raids not once but twice—Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila—and told an audience of urban poor folk that she never ordered the police or military to conduct *sonas* in their area.

She said that talk about *sonas*—where young men are separated from the rest of the residents and taken in for questioning often without warrants—was nothing but "intrigues" meant to destroy her administration's credibility.

The President spoke at the Barangay 105 multipurpose hall at Smokey Mountain, the same area allegedly raided twice by the military who were looking for an Estrada supporter named Peping Magbanua.

"I want to make it clear that there were no *sonas* and that (I never) ordered *sonas* here," she told local residents in Filipino.

Her remarks drew applause from the audience of about 400, but some residents told reporters they have been having sleepless nights watching out for the dreaded *sonas*.

Many people are on edge, they said, recounting how they had seen local young men scampering away in different directions at night at the slightest hint of trouble.

One unidentified man told about how young men had been supposedly picked up by the military who released them after several hours.

Those with tattoos, others said, had to fork over P500 to the military men.

Before the men were released, the local residents said, they were made to sign their names on pieces of paper.

A Department of Social Welfare and Development lawyer who was with Ms Macapagal's party said he has been trying to get to the bottom of the story.

Gloria fights for Congress control

THE KEY focus in the elections on Monday will be on Congress, where control by President Macapagal-Arroyo is crucial to pushing economic reforms and restoring investor confidence, analysts said.

Much of Macapagal's economic program is anchored on the passage of several reform-oriented bills, including those seeking to deregulate the power sector, strengthen the central bank and simplify taxation procedures, they said.

Next year's budget will be deliberated by the new Congress, comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The elections will cover 17,000 posts, including in provincial, city and town governments, but all eyes will be on the 13 Senate and 262 House of Representatives seats.

Analysts said a peaceful and credible conduct of the polls would further cloak Ms Macapagal with a mantle of legitimacy, after she was swept to power through a military-backed uprising in January.

"In a way we feel that the president might be able to do her job better and faster if she has control of Congress because her legislative proposals will easily sail through," said Miguel Varela, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"President Arroyo has outlined her economic recovery measures and many of them require legislative action," Varela told AFP.

Credible polls following Arroyo's decisive move in smashing an attempt by Estrada supporters to seize power should show investors that the government was "trying to work not only on the solid foundations of economic recovery but also on the rule of law," he said.

Bienvenido Oplas, a political economist with the private consulting firm Think Tank Inc., noted that the Arroyo administration was a minority in the 24-member Senate, where 11 seats would not be contested.

The administration's People Power Coalition should win at least eight of the 13 seats being contested to garner a majority in the upper house, Oplas said. *AFP*

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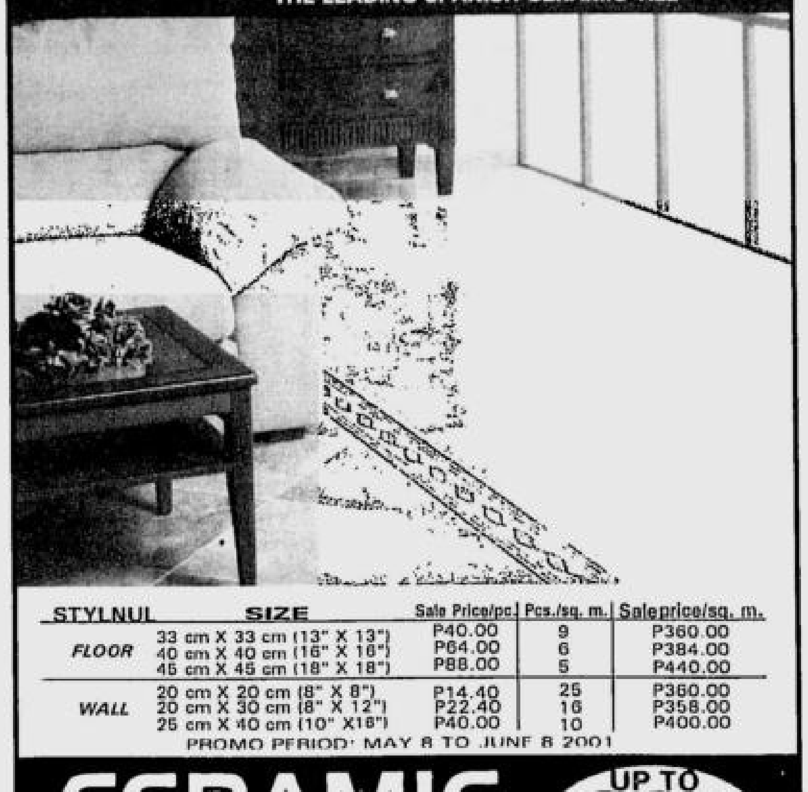

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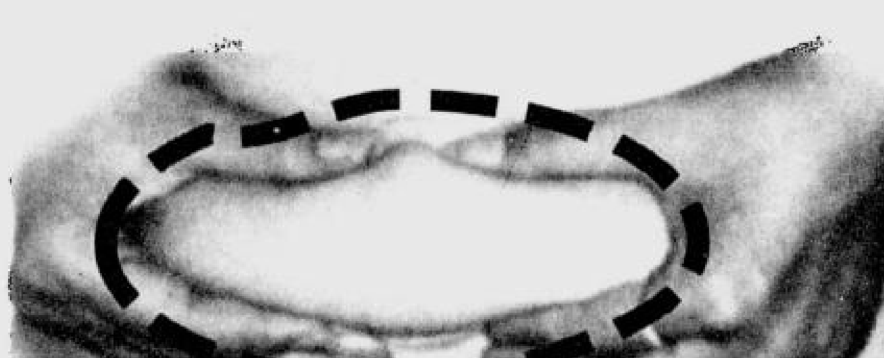
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Enrile just 'politicking,' counters Meralco

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

REELECTIONIST Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is using the issue of the purchased power adjustment to boost his campaign, the Lopez-controlled Manila Electric Co. charged back yesterday.

Enrile accused Meralco of overcharging consumers by P914 million in March alone in price adjustments for power "purportedly" bought from the Lopez-owned First Gas Power Corp.

"There is no truth to that. We wish politicians would stop using us as a vehicle for publicity," Elpi Cuna, Meralco director for corporate communications, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Cuna stressed that not a single centavo of their purchased power adjustment went to Meralco and that the firm was "just a collector."

"Ninety-eight percent of this goes to our power suppliers, mainly Napocor, while the rest goes to the government as franchise tax," the official said.

Still, Enrile pressed his attack yesterday. In a press statement, he said "Meralco has been hoodwinking the public on their excessive PPA charges by using explanations that the consumers do not understand."

He said that while it may be true that Meralco did not keep any of the PPA charges, it was transferring about P1 billion a month to the Lopez-owned First Gas Power, one of its power suppliers.

"Don't Filipinos have a right against this profiteering?" he asked.

The senator has launched a barrage of advertisements and has threatened to file a class action suit against the distribution giant on behalf of consumers.

Enrile said the P914 million was just for one month and warned that the PPA could run up to billions if Meralco's books were thoroughly investigated.

Enrile added that the overcharging was a result of a "sweetheart" deal between Meralco and First Gas, whose 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita power plant "is not yet in operation."

"Most of his so-called revelations are half-truths and are meant to confuse the public on the status of the power industry," Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said in a statement sent to reporters.

Cuna and Andrada said the construction of Sta. Rita plant was part of a contract between Meralco and the National Power Corp. following the energy crisis of the early 1990s.

They said the Sta. Rita generator was operating although not at full capacity owing to the present oversupply of electricity.

Due to this oversupply, they said, Meralco and Napocor entered into a compromise agreement to ensure the optimization of all power plants and transmission lines.

Part of the agreement was the Napocor's deferment of using power from Sta. Rita.

The generator even played a vital role in stabilizing the country's power supply during the recent Luzon-wide blackout, Andrada said.

Moreover, Cuna said, the Sta. Rita plant was part of the initiatives to provide a ready market for the natural gas coming from the Malampaya field.

The generator currently runs on condensed fuel since the natural gas would not be available until October this year.

PnM ads 'agitating,' says PPC

BY C. AVENDAÑO AND R. TECSON, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

IN THE battle of the television campaign commercials, the latest one put out by the opposition Puwersa ng Masa only serves to "agitate" the public, particularly the masses.

This was the assertion of People Power Coalition spokesperson Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco who said that yesterday the PnM was entitled to put out TV ads, but the one that began airing the other day was "dangerous."

Limcaoco said he was "alarmed" by the commercial because he found it agitated the people against the government.

The PnM ad condemned those who had belittled the six-day pro-Estrada protest at the Edsa Shrine the last week of April and the violent dispersal of the masses who had stormed Malacañang Palace on May 1.

PPC Volunteer Center head Jose Ma. Fernandez said the opposition "can do what they want to do," but it appears they have taken a tougher approach in their campaign because "they have nothing solid against our candidates."

The administration-PPC started the negative ad wars when it aired hard-hitting commercials against PnM candidates Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson following the failed assault on the Presidential Palace.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked the PPC to stop airing the ads after people complained. As of yesterday, however, the ads were still airing over some TV stations.

In Cebu City, PnM's Santiago said she had evidence to prove the Macapagal administration used Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PSCO) funds to finance the negative ads against PnM candidates. *With Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Rosary Diane Baytion*

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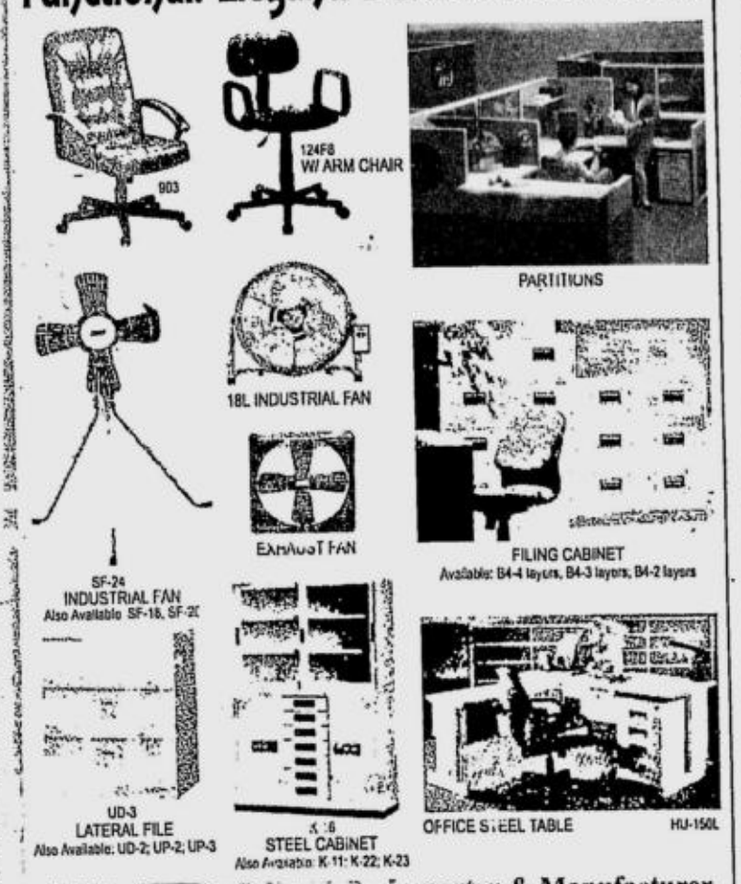

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PPC to hold 'miting de avance' at Edsa

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition will hold its *miting de avance* at the People Power Monument on Edsa in Quezon City tomorrow.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to attend the event which will be held from 8 to 10 p.m., PPC spokesperson Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco said yesterday.

Former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos have also been invited to the last rally of the PPC before the May 14 elections, according to Joey Rufino, Lakas national executive director.

In a phone interview, Limcaoco said the coalition had initially planned to hold the *miting de avance* at the nearby Edsa Shrine but the event being a political rally, coalition leaders didn't want the shrine to be used for this purpose.

The venue of the *miting* might be changed if it rains tomorrow, he said, but the PPC was still looking for an alternative indoor site.

The PPC will hold a series of political rallies in five key Metro Manila cities--Mandaluyong, Marikina, San Juan, Pasig and Quezon City--that will culminate in the big rally at the People Power Monument, Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco said the 13 PPC senatorial candidates will talk about their respective legislative programs to address the "dehumanizing elements of poverty," as well as the healing process the country needs to go through after the violent May 1 siege on Malacañang allegedly instigated by members of the opposition.

Final pitch

A *miting de avance* is the last big political rally of the campaign season. Parties pour everything they have into the rally and candidates make their final pitches for votes.

The day following it is usually the day before the elections when all campaigning is disallowed.

This year, President Macapagal will vote in Lubao, Pampanga, where she has voted since she was 18, it was learned.

The Commission on Elections in Pampanga said Ms Macapagal will vote at precinct 1-A at the Lubao East Central School in Barangay San Nicolas I.

Ms Macapagal considers herself a resident of Lubao, the hometown of her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal.

Ms Macapagal's residence in Lubao is her aunt's home, according to the President's son, Juan Miguel or Mikey who is running for Pampanga vice governor.

Meanwhile, Rufino revealed that many local leaders and supporters of the opposition PnM have been switching over to the PPC's side.

Most of those "crossing over," according to Rufino, belonged to the National People's Coalition and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, two of the parties in the PnM. They were from the Visayas and Mindanao, he said. *Christine Avendaño with Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Fortun: So sorry

ESTRADA lawyer Raymond Fortun yesterday apologized to the Sandiganbayan for coming up with a motion on Wednesday mistakenly assuming that the court had allowed his VIP client to be placed under house arrest.

Fortun said a "simple miscommunication" between him and his messenger led to his filing of a motion to grant the same accommodation to Estrada's co-accused son, Jinggoy.

As early as Wednesday, the lawyer was already saying in media interviews that he was given false information Tuesday afternoon by an ABS-CBN researcher that Estrada's house arrest petition was already granted by the Sandiganbayan's third division which is hearing his plunder case.

But he said that it was too late for him to contact his messenger Tuesday night who had already brought home the said motion which would be filed Wednesday morning.

He told the court yesterday that the motion he filed in behalf of Jinggoy was done without malice and had no intent to preempt the court's decision on the house arrest issue, as earlier alleged by state prosecutors.

Fortun apologized "for any inconvenience or anxiety (on the part of the court) as a result of such inadvertent filing."

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RP joins bid to control chemicals that make illicit drugs

RANGOON—Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are expected to join a Southeast Asian initiative to fight the production of illicit drugs by more tightly controlling the legal chemicals used in their production, UN anti-drug officials said yesterday.

Initially, six countries in the Mekong Basin area, Cambodia, China, Laos, Burma, Thailand and Vietnam, will take part in the initiative.

It is expected to be approved Friday by government ministers from the six countries at a meeting to evaluate and renovate a 1993 understanding on fighting drug abuse and trafficking. The meeting is sponsored by the United Nations International Drug Control Program.

Senior officials of the six countries met Tuesday and Wednesday to hammer out details of the project to control the diversion and trafficking of precursors chemicals.

Precursors are the raw ingredients and catalysts for production of such illicit drugs such as methamphetamine hydrochloride, known in the Philippines as "shabu," and heroin.

The Mekong Basin is a major drug-producing and consuming area, centered around the so-called Golden Triangle region where the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand meet.

The first phase of the precursor control project, which ran from 1996-2000, was "very successful," Sandro Calvani, head of UNDCP's Asia office in Bangkok, said.

"Chemical precursors are much easier to control than drugs because they are much bigger; we are talking about containers, millions of liters, we are not talking about small pills that you put in your pocket," he said. *AP*

American extradited for rape

By D. S. Cueto

AN AMERICAN treasure hunter who had allegedly defrauded some 60 Filipinos and Americans of millions of dollars with his tales of sunken treasures will be extradited today from Indonesia for allegedly raping a 15-year-old Filipina in 1994.

Two agents of the National Bureau of Investigation are set to return today with Dennis Standefer, who had been charged with rape of a minor, a capital offense, in Surigao del Norte.

But if the American is convicted and is meted out the death penalty, he will not be executed because of an agreement between former President Joseph Estrada and Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, a Department of Justice source said.

Because Indonesia has no death penalty, it did not agree to extradite Standefer until it got an assurance from Estrada that the American would be exempt from capital punishment.

Estrada issued the assurance in a letter sent in early January this year, just before he was ousted, to the Indonesian government. This was required so Standefer, whom Philippine authorities had been trying to extradite since 1999, would finally be brought back to the country to face charges of rape and fraud.

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GMA allows Honasan, Lacson to campaign

(From page A1)

they are free to come out. They need not ask for a pass. That is just a political gimmick to make them appear like underdogs," he said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina reminded Aquino that there was no warrant of arrest for Lacson and Honasan, close allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada, who had been tagged by the government as instigators of the May 1 march on Malacañang.

In Davao City, PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza also said there was no warrant of arrest for the two men as he rejected a proposal of Honasan's lawyers to put down in writing his order last Tuesday to call off the manhunt for the "fugitives."

"The law clearly provides that they cannot be arrested without a warrant," he said.

Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz Jr. said that the Office of the Solicitor General submitted on Wednesday its official position to the Supreme Court stating that with the lifting of the state of rebellion last Monday, normal procedures would be followed. This means there will be no arrests without a court warrant, Cruz clarified.

Yesterday, with the assurance of government prosecutors that they would no longer conduct warrantless arrests, the high court junked petitions questioning the legality of warrantless arrests. *(Story on Page A2.)*

The justice department has provided no clear details or evidence of the alleged involvement of opposition figures in the alleged power grab.

Even PNP chief Mendoza told the INQUIRER yesterday that he was yet unclear on the nature of the charges as they are still being evaluated by the Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors.

The PnM has accused the Macapagal administration of fabricating a rebellion as an excuse to crack down on opposition candidates and gain an edge in the elections.

PNP Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay said there was no need to issue a pass or written order about the freedom from arrest for Honasan and Lacson.

"We will just issue a verbal communication to our police personnel."

Lacson thanks President

"This gesture by the President is an indication that she is really sincere in her effort to extend the hand of reconciliation to the opposition," Lacson said in a press statement.

But Honasan, who had been amnestied for several bloody coup attempts during the tenure of former President Cory Aquino and a classmate of Lacson at the Philippine Military Academy, sought a written document ordering law enforcers to stop hunting them.

He claimed that "elements of the police and military" seemed bent on arresting them.

Honasan was referring to his own scheduled "surrender" last Wednesday to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"Overkill," was how Pimentel described the presence of heavily armed police and military men at the justice department where he was to escort Honasan and meet Justice Secretary Hernando Perez after he had put himself in the senator's custody.

"Gringo believes that there are certain elements in the ranks of the police and the military who do not want the process to succeed in this talk that we are brokering," Pimentel told the INQUIRER.

Pimentel said that Honasan suspected sabotage and that the police planned to arrest him.

"That is the problem because if it was their intention to arrest him and the senator (Honasan) might feel that there is no basis for it, it is possible he might resist and in the process, lives would be lost unnecessarily," Pimentel said.

Senator Biazon theorized that blocking Honasan's surrender would prevent him from campaigning in the remaining days before the election on May 14.

Mendoza said he was puzzled why Honasan was afraid of the police.

"The presence of the police was in connection with the case that we are going to file," he said.

No overkill

"It was no overkill. It was just the right thing to do," Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto said to justify the presence of his men at the justice department.

He came with only seven policemen together with five witnesses, three policemen and two civilians, he said. The policemen were to take Honasan's fingerprints and mug shots.

Gualberto, chief of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said "no special treatment" would be accorded Honasan and Lacson.

"They carry a similar charge of rebellion leveled against their fellow candidate (reelectionist) Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and ex-Ambassador to the US Ernesto Maceda," he told the INQUIRER. "We have to apply the law equally to all."

Enrile was first to be arrested without a warrant on May 2. He posted bail of P100,000. Maceda was arrested the following day and also posted bail of P80,000.

The CIDG chief said it would be "unfair" to Enrile and Maceda, who both underwent the same process of having been subjected to inquest, fingerprinting and mug shots, if the police would simply let Honasan and Lacson do away with the same process.

Reminded that the order for warrantless arrests had been recalled by PNP chief Leandro Mendoza last Tuesday, Gualberto said that it was not his intention to arrest Honasan.

"Gringo was not to be arrested. Just like Enrile and Maceda, the police did not arrest them because they voluntarily went with the police. They were simply subjected to inquest," Gualberto said.

But Enrile and Maceda claimed they had been "picked up like suspects" in their homes.

Gualberto argued: "In the case of Honasan, he was supposed to voluntarily go to the DOJ. He was not being hunted down. He would simply show up. Besides, what could be his problem when he could easily post bail just like Enrile and Maceda?"

Gualberto said after the inquest, Honasan could have posted bail and was free to leave without having to go to Camp Crame.

He said that he had yet to receive an order from the Palace to grant safe conduct passes to Honasan and Lacson to allow them to attend the PnM miting de avance today at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

"We will wait until we get the order so we would know the duration of the safe conduct passes.

Is there a war?

The offer of safe conduct passes proves that the country is still under a state of rebellion contrary to earlier reports that the declaration was lifted, senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago said in Bacolod.

"Safe-conduct passes are not given unless we are in a state of war. Is there a war that I don't know about?" she asked.

"It is an implicit admission that the country is under an effective state of martial law, which is not over. Today, it may be them (Honasan and Lacson) who are being ordered arrested without warrants of arrest. Tomorrow it may happen to us," she said. *With reports from Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau and Inquirer wires*

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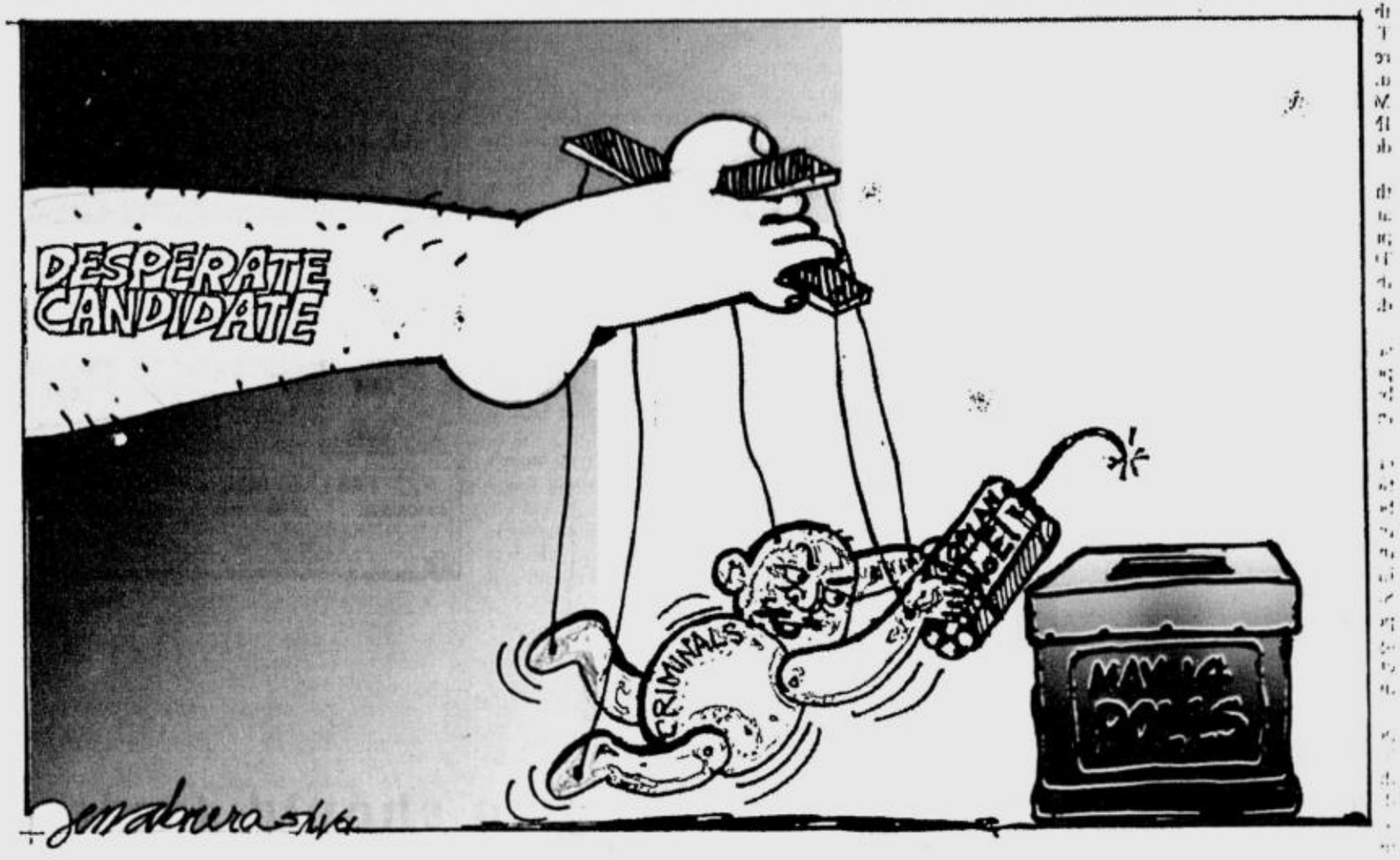

Equal justice

EDITORIAL

ALMOST buried in the avalanche of news stories about the government's efforts to bring to justice the instigators of the Labor Day siege on Malacañang was the precedent-setting verdict of guilty meted out to a cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. And yet that verdict is bound to have much bearing on the issue that has divided the nation and, at least for a number of days, shook the Macapagal administration to its foundations: the arrest and detention of former President Joseph Estrada for plunder and other crimes.

In the first plunder case to be decided by the courts, Judge Diosdado Peralta found Dominga Manalili guilty on two counts of plunder and sentenced her to serve two life terms. Government prosecutors charged that Manalili and Teofisto Sapitula, a BIR assistant regional director, with the help of four others, used for their own purposes some P260 million in tax payments over a three-month period. Manalili and her associates opened two accounts with the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in West Triangle in November 1996 and deposited a total of about P260 million in tax collections, which they gradually withdrew until their scam was uncovered three months later in February 1997. By then, however, the accounts were already empty and only Manalili was left to face the music, her confederates having fled to parts unknown.

Peralta said in his decision that what Manalili and her co-accused did was "tantamount to a raid on the public treasury." But he rejected the prosecution's recommendation that Manalili be sentenced to death, saying the government was not able to prove any aggravating circumstance in the two cases. Plunder, which is defined as a series of criminal acts leading to the accumulation of at least P50 million, was classified as a heinous crime when Congress passed the death penalty law in 1994.

Manalili's conviction has been hailed as a strong warning to corrupt government officials and their partners. Which makes it a pity that the story didn't get the prominent play-up it deserved. Corruption after all is a major reason for almost everything that's wrong with our country, from our people's poverty to the woeful inadequacy of public infrastructure and government services and the poor administration of justice. Two years ago Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said that based on his office's investigations started in 1998, the government's losses from graft and corruption amounted to P1.43 trillion. And those losses are mounting at the rate of P100 million a day, he said.

The government has a much better opportunity to deliver the same warning loud and clear to those who look at public office as a means to enrich themselves. This is the coming trial of Estrada. The deposed president stands accused of accepting P70 million in kickbacks from the excise tax on tobacco, P179 million in "commissions" from the purchase of shares of stock by the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System, accepting more than P400 million in protection money from illegal gambling operators, building several lavish mansions for his mistresses, and accumulating several billions in bank deposits.

As far as graft cases are concerned, it is difficult to imagine a bigger case than this. And it is not only because of the staggering amounts involved but more so because the principal accused was once the highest official of the land. If the government succeeds in getting a conviction for Estrada, it would shatter the common perception that the law is hard on the poor and powerless but it doesn't apply to the rich and powerful.

Strained relations

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE FUNDAMENTAL structure of the US-China relationship under the Bush administration is almost the same as that during the Clinton administration, which viewed China as a "strategic partner." But, the US administration seems to have shifted its focus from cooperation in the Clinton era to confrontation.

There are a number of issues between the United States and China that could lead to further deterioration of bilateral relations if not dealt with properly, including China's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

We urge the two countries to engage in a constructive dialogue to build a stable relationship. But, at least for now, we have to be prepared for strained relations between the Untied States and China.

Yomiuri Shimbun (Tokyo)

The likely winners in Metro's local polls

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT seems that this early, three days from E-Day, the elections for local government positions in Metro Manila are over. Most incumbent mayors running for reelection in the 13 cities and municipalities of the metropolis are on the way to winning. The close fights are expected in Quezon City, Caloocan, Manila and Pasay.

But in Quezon City, Speaker Sonny Belmonte is way ahead of his rivals, movie action star Rudy Fernandez and Rep. Dante Liban—according to the surveys. Belmonte has 52 percent of the vote; Fernandez, 32 percent; and Liban, 16 percent. Vice Mayor Connie Angeles is ahead of her movie colleague, Herbert Bautista, running mate of Fernandez.

In Caloocan, the fight between Mayor Rey Malonzo and the Asistio family is very bitter but with the Iglesia ni Cristo dropping Baby Asistio, a close Erap ally, from its lineup, Malonzo would have easy sailing.

In Manila, the fight between former teammates Mayor Lito Atienza and ex-Mayor Fred Lim is even more bitter. Atienza was Lim's vice mayor who ascended to the mayoralty when Lim ran for president and lost. Lim was infuriated when Atienza allegedly removed his trusted men from City Hall, to which Atienza retorted: "He doesn't own City Hall. He is no longer mayor. I am now the mayor. I have to have aides of my confidence."

Since then, Lim's all-consuming wish is to kick his former vice mayor out of City Hall and claim it for himself. He spurned a senatorial berth in the Puwersa ng Masa ticket where he could have been a sure winner (he consistently topped the surveys) to run against Atienza.

Lim has hurled everything, including the kitchen sink, against Atienza, accusing him of shady deals in City Hall. The latest is a petition to disqualify Atienza in connection with charges of plunder and graft filed with the Ombudsman. But with the election only three days away, I don't think the disqualification case will even get to first base.

Lim seems to hate Atienza so much that when the latter offered to shake his hand after their recent debate at the Manila Hotel, Lim brushed aside Atienza's hand.

Surveys show Atienza has an 18 to 20 percent lead over his challengers: Lim and former Rep. Amado Bagatsing. It is the latter two who are locked in second place.

In Pasay, incumbent Mayor Pee-Wee Trinidad has a shaky hold on the mayoralty because he won it only in recall elections and he has not served long enough to show what he can do. Nevertheless, he has the edge over his rivals.

In the congressional races, it looks like Quezon City will have two Ismael Mathays, father and son, sitting in the House of Representatives. The former mayor is ahead of Councilor Nannette Castelo-Daza and former Bicol Rep. Edcel Lagman in the fourth district. His son and namesake, Ismael "Chuck" III, is also ahead of Daza's brother, Councilor Winnie Castelo, in the second district, Liban's bailiwick. The congressman, who can no longer run for reelection, has fielded his wife to run for his seat while he runs for mayor but rumors are that she has withdrawn from the race.

Speaking of Lagman, I don't understand how a long-time congressman in Bicol can suddenly run to represent residents of Quezon City. I understand Lagman has a law office in Quezon City but is that how the Comelec interprets the constitutional requirement of "domicile" or "residence"? Lagman cannot run for his old Bicol seat because his son, the present occupant, refuses to step aside.

The Comelec has been very lax in enforcing the requirements for "domicile" both for candidates and voters. Candidates can run in places where they don't really live regularly and permanently but merely claim residency through rented houses or houses of relatives. Amado Bagatsing and Mel Lopez, for example, have been running for various positions in Manila although they go home every day to Quezon City. When the Bagatsing patriarch, Ramon, was mayor of Manila, he was living in Alabang, Muntinlupa. I know this is a loophole in the law, but I don't think that is the intent of the Constitution. The Comelec is taking too many liberties in interpreting the Constitution and the Election Code.

Blatant violations are the non-enforcement of the residency rule for voters. The law says the voter must be a permanent resident of the place he wants to vote in. Squatters are not per se permanent residents of the squatter colonies they temporarily live in, yet they are allowed by the Comelec to vote in the voting precincts for these areas. That is how flying voters proliferate. That is how squatter colonies grow. Politicians allow them to squat and even purposely bring them in because they are allowed to vote—for the squatter-coddling politicians of course.

For as long as we allow this irregularity to continue, we will never be able to solve the squatting problem or make our elections clean and free. For so long, under different commissioners, our Comelec has been effete. After the elections, our present Comelec, if it has any balls, should polish its rules to reflect the spirit and intent of the Constitution in time for the 2004 elections.

The Comelec can no longer plead lack of time.

Cat on a hot tin roof

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

DESPITE the fact that we are not electing a president, the May 14 elections will be the nation's most politically important since the snap election of 1986 removed Ferdinand Marcos from power and catapulted Cory Aquino to the presidency.

It takes place soon after three major political events of our recent history: the assumption to power of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January, the arrest and detention of former President Estrada, and the May 1st riot and the government crackdown following it. Rarely in our history and purely by chance have the voters had such an opportunity to give their opinion concerning dramatic events so soon after they occurred. This is why many people are describing what will take place as a referendum rather than as an election.

By now, and especially for the senatorial candidates, the campaign has been long over, the counting excepted. It will be almost impossible to find a Filipino who hasn't made up his or her mind about how to vote nationally. All the previous polls are probably misleading for now, for a variety of reasons.

The first is that May 1 and its aftermath has probably hardened voters' views, already polarized by the political developments of the past year. We will probably see a greater tendency to vote straight tickets in this election similar to what the voters did in the 1971 senatorial elections following the bombing at Plaza Miranda. Unlike 1971, there may also be a tendency to vote along class lines.

Even new surveys might be tainted by the tense political atmosphere and extraordinary legal system in place until early this week. In more normal times, voters when asked about their intentions had already understated their preference for the opposition. Some surveys prior to the 1998 elections indicated Joseph Estrada would get up to 10 percent or so fewer votes than he actually got. It may be that in an atmosphere of warrantless arrests and "sonas," the poorer voters are simply not telling the whole story to strangers who ask them. We simply won't know until the count.

And there is also a possible countervailing effect among middle-class and middle-of-the-road voters. In the face of tension, these voters may opt to express a vote for stability by voting straight for the government ticket. These uncertainties and the unreliability of surveys under these extraordinary conditions are what will make election night on May 14 and the count of the days following exciting and perhaps even surprising.

It is amazing how quickly political dilemmas and advantages change. In a single 24-hour period from May 1, the political initiative shifted quickly back and forth. First, it seemed to rest with the Edsa demonstrators, then it rapidly moved to the government as the rally turned into a riot in Mendiola, then it shifted again as the focus centered on the emergency legal procedures adopted by the government in response to these events. The President's decision that the political situation is stable enough to return to normal legal processes is not only welcome but again shifts the initiative. Truly, a week is a long time in politics.

In such a politically charged atmosphere, it is often the moderates who are most likely to lose. They are often denounced by the hard core of their own political coalitions as opportunists, compromisers and even traitors while they will be portrayed by their opponents as the consorts of evil. On both sides, demonization, the use of unrestrained rhetoric and the tendency to think in terms of the "us against them" of basketball games are creating immense social and political strains on our democracy. In this election, we need to elect healers, not firestarters.

Unfortunately, short of a credible 13-0 victory, and perhaps even then, the political problems of the administration will not soon cease. In reality, the day following May 14 will be the first day of the presidential campaign for 2004. Even within the administration coalition, rifts will begin once any threat to the constitutional order is clearly over. Already, in private, speculation over the political futures of names like Nene Pimentel, Loren Legarda, Serge Osmeña, Frank Drilon, Raul Roco, or even Noli de Castro—never mind those in the opposition—is already rife.

But the difficulties for the government will multiply if the result is significantly altered from the 8-5 outcome in favor of the administration indicated by previous surveys. The political stresses will be compounded by global and local economic difficulties for the next year or two. The relaxation of the legal situation shows that the administration realizes that relying principally on the military and on emergency powers for governance under these conditions is a certain recipe for volatility and instability. The administration is carefully weighing both its short- and long-term strategies carefully. For the foreseeable future, it must tread the political landscape like a cat on a hot tin roof.

Our best hope is that, after the elections, moderation will yet prevail, zeal will be tempered by tact and that everyone who stares into the abyss will draw away from it. The only ones to ultimately profit from internal strife would be insurgents and militarists. Yet the strident rhetoric on both sides continues.

It is particularly worrisome that raw intelligence reports are publicly released a week prior to elections. Are we dealing here with election or coup contributors? Are donations to pro-government candidates legitimate but to opposition ones illegitimate? Are these lists of names really all nefarious characters or legitimate but naïve businessmen? We don't know. There are no charges, no evidence as yet. Just headlined "reports."

These reports follow so soon after a congressman was just cleared by the NBI of drug dealing following what turned out to be either erroneous or malicious accusations. Just when we thought one part of the tin roof had cooled off, another part got hotter. It may be a long, hot summer.

Recognizing the schism in the Church

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ADMINISTRATION and the opposition—both elite-based—are again competing for the support of the El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Cristo for their senatorial candidates in the May 14 elections. The importance of the votes of members of these religious groups for electoral mobilization is underlined by the fact that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made a pilgrimage to visit the INC hierarchy the other day on the eve of its decision on whom to support in the polls.

These two organizations with mass following—the El Shaddai has an estimated 7 million members and the INC, 5 million—were critical elements in propping up deposed President Estrada in Edsa III. The withdrawal of the INC from the Edsa rallies the day before the May 1 attack on Malacañang reduced the mass base of the power grab.

The fact that neutralizing these organizations' support for rebellion was important to crushing the power grab underlines the point that these mass-based organizations can hold a government hostage through their numbers.

What is more important to point out than the capacity of these organizations for mass mobilization is that the May 1 attack has the elements of both a religious and class war. The storming of the palace by the *masa* reveals the deep cleavage within the Roman Catholic Church running along class lines. The Church hierarchy led by Jaime Cardinal Sin represents the tendencies of middle- and upper-class segments of the Church. The El Shaddai aggregates the interests of the lower class constituency of the Church. These constituencies live in two different worlds.

This is the reason why the hierarchy cannot impose discipline on the El Shaddai movement whose lower-class base has few interests in common with those of the upper classes. No matter what threats the hierarchy had issued on Bro. Mike Velarde to toe the line when the hierarchy put its power and influence behind Edsa I and Edsa II, the El Shaddai took political positions opposite those of the hierarchy.

The El Shaddai movement represents a schism in the Philippine Catholic Church. This gulf springs from the fact that the hierarchy and its constituency and the El Shaddai do not share the same political values and social priorities.

Edsa I and Edsa II were driven by middle-class issues. Edsa I was propelled by issues on governance, corruption, cronyism, abuse of power and human rights violations. These issues represent middle-class concerns. The issues that drove Edsa II were corruption, cronyism, governance, competence, abuse of power and the interests of the business community. These are middle-class issues.

Thus, it was easy for Estrada to identify the hierarchy with the Makati business elite, and to incite the poor against the rich. There was nothing in Edsa I and II that addressed the concerns of the unorganized poor living in the urban slums. True, Edsa I and II had the support of a number of the poor and underclasses but most of the support came from the organized low-income groups led by urban-based trade unions, some of them identified with the Left.

The interests of the lumpen proletariat were never addressed or aggregated by the Church, the middle-class do-gooders, the Makati business establishment and the noisy liberal professional class.

While the unorganized underclasses were mainly passive during Edsa I and II, the third Edsa revolt was an expression of their grievances which, unfortunately, were hijacked by Estrada in a charismatic personality cult that identified him with the underclasses. That Estrada did nothing for the poor, except give them tokenisms like doles, and did not use state power to redistribute wealth illustrates the vulnerability of the poor to exploitation and manipulation by the elite or some of the elite who have claimed themselves as the champion of the poor.

The poor responded to the El Shaddai and INC because Brother Mike offered them hope—albeit through religious quackery—in a highly unequal society whose conventional prescription to fight poverty is the trickle-down formula emphasizing growth without redistribution. The El Shaddai exercised powerful appeal to the underclasses because it incorporated in religious discipline the social safety net that the conservative state has failed to provide.

The capacity of the El Shaddai and INC for mass mobilization behind political causes is a symptom of the failure of all Philippine governments to address the concerns of the disadvantaged classes left out in the distribution of the benefits of growth and development. Thus, the El Shaddai and INC have filled the vacuum created by the socially unconcerned state in establishing social safety nets for the disadvantaged, even though the masses may be exploited by charismatic movements that are not accountable for monies collected from their flock during prayer meetings.

The hierarchy's concern for the poor is directed at tokenisms—i.e. charitable projects—but not at redistributive programs. The same approach has been taken by successive Philippine governments whose main concerns are "reforms" in governance that put redistribution and equity at the bottom of their priorities.

Thus when the critical moment of political mobilization comes, as in the poor people's revolt of May 1, the poor responded to the calls of the INC, El Shaddai and demagogues like Estrada. They found middle-class values irrelevant and insensitive to their needs.

The Macapagal administration, driven by middle-class values, and the Catholic hierarchy, should be aware of the polarization that emerged on May 1. The Church is fractured by an underlying class cleavage which has driven its poorer constituency to the embrace of charismatic and cultist movements. The government has to go beyond its middle-class reformism and welfare tokenism through a drastic reorientation of its emphasis toward social programs. The answer does not lie in deploying actors and actresses to dialogue with the poor, a la Erap. The instruments available to the government are overhauling the budget priorities and taxation. These are the weapons for a peaceful social revolution to win the poor.

No to house arrest

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE DECISION of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division on whether to allow deposed President Estrada to be put under house arrest in Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan or continue his detention at Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna is being awaited any time now. The talk is that the Iglesia ni Cristo requested a house arrest for Erap from President Macapagal. There is a huge debate about this. I'd like to add my voice to those who vigorously oppose house arrest for Estrada. I feel he should continue to be detained at Sta. Rosa, which has been made comfortable for him and Jinggoy. Various reasons are given by opposers, but mine is a practical one. Greenhills is too close to Edsa and Estrada's transfer there could spark more trouble for the administration, given the temper of his followers.

* * *

In fact, I like the "Napoleonic formula" being floated around as a solution to the Erap problem. Recall that in the first half of the 19th century, the Emperor Napoleon was banished to the island of St. Helena after he succeeded in returning to power but subsequently was deposed again. The suggestion is for the deposed president to be detained in Corregidor for the duration of the trial. Corregidor is beautiful and well-kept as a memorial and a stay there could be very relaxing and comfortable for him and for the Sandiganbayan justices who will try him. There is a good three-star hotel and plenty to keep oneself busy. At the same time, "The Rock," which is accessible from Manila by hydrofoil or a light plane, is excellent for crowd-control.

* * *

Puwersa ng Masa's candidate for Makati's second district, Erap loyalist Butz Aquino, was heard on radio yesterday asking an interesting question. Why is it, he asked that when the middle and upper classes gather at Edsa and march to Mendiola to depose a president it is called "People Power," but when the *masa* does the same, it is called a "rebellion"? I never thought that I would see the day when Butz, an authentic hero of Edsa, can no longer see the difference between the two Edsas and what transpired in the last week of April. Ninoy must really be rolling in his grave.

First, Edsa I and II were uprisings against two presidents who were both very corrupt; because of their corruption they lost the moral authority to govern and the people booted them out. Then too, the mass actions at the two Edsas cut across all classes of Philippine society and had the support of all the major institutions in the country, notably the various churches, the bureaucracy, the Armed Forces, the academe, business and NGOs. By contrast, the recent uprising was dominated by opposition leaders, some of whom were out to restore a president who had been thrown out by the people, while others were out to just grab power for themselves. To achieve their end, these unscrupulous politicians, apparently with the support of a number of shady crony businessmen, used and manipulated the poorest classes of society whom they armed to storm Malacañang.

* * *

How will the recent uprising affect Monday's elections? Pollster Mahar Mangahas was quoted as opining that the opposition faces a backlash in the coming polls which would benefit the People Power Coalition. Doubtless there will be a backlash, and already some political pundits are speculating that it could produce a 12-1 or even 13-0 result in favor of the PPC.

The 13-0 rallying cry is certainly catching fire. But even at the local level, the backlash is being felt. For instance, the Couples for Christ, a lay organization within the Catholic Church that's said to number about a million, said in an ad in all the major dailies that it is backing PPC mayoral candidate Amado Bagatsing in Manila against incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza and Alfredo Lim because the latter two candidates are "openly and strongly pro-Erap." CFC lamented that some pro-Erap Metro Manila mayors have gone all out to "exploit" the Edsa situation and "it is profoundly disturbing to have such leaders." But just how Bagatsing's campaign will fare against Atienza's political machinery remains to be seen.

* * *

I must confess that I am just as disturbed about the unshakable ties of my good friend, Lito Atienza, with Estrada despite the tons of evidence ferreted out by the impeachment trial. I cringed when I heard Atienza boast over the radio in those pro-Erap rallies at Edsa that among the Metro Manila mayors he brought the largest contingent from Manila.

On the other hand, Vice Mayor Edu Manzano is capitalizing on the backlash against his mayoral opponent in Makati, ex-Mayor and Erap loyalist Jejomar Binay. In his recent caucuses and sorties, Manzano has been displaying bogus bills that he alleges were retrieved from the people Binay had recruited to Edsa. Manzano says P300 was paid to each of the ralliers 15 to 21 years old and P500 to those above 21, but the trouble was that these were all fake bills. Passing around counterfeit bills is a serious offense punishable by law, but if Manzano's charge is true, that's also the height of cruelty on Binay's part.

* * *

PPC senatorial candidate Obet Pagdangan called up yesterday to protest a news item that he is junking his colleagues. Obet swears that junking is not being done among the PPC candidates, he most of all. It really doesn't make sense, for Obet, a *dagdag-bawas* victim in the 1998 elections, needs his teammates' help to sustain his recent pull-up into the Magic 13. He surmised that his recent surge may explain the black propaganda, but his wife Susan added that perhaps the solo endorsement of Obet by his engineering fraternity, the Alpha Phi Omega, could have given the impression that he is junking his colleagues.

* * *

Obet also explained that he was asked by the Comelec to drop his electoral protest against Sen. Teresa Oreta as the poll body needs the 67,000 ballot boxes that were being tied up in his protest. The ballots inside those boxes remained the subject of a frightfully slow protest case at the Senate Electoral Tribunal (an equal number of ballot boxes were tied up by his opponent, who filed a counter-protest, but it's no sweat for her to give up her case as she is the one sitting). Obet said he had no choice but to consent to give up his protest, though he was winning the recount so far. But perhaps his sacrifice would not be in vain as he could win more sympathy votes this second time around, just like Nene Pimentel.

* * *

With a name as loved as the one he inherited, PPC senatorial reelectionist Ramon Magsaysay Jr. does not need to campaign to win again. But he takes to the hustings seriously, and anchors his campaign on what he knows best—the importance of information technology (IT) and the need to develop the country's economy and global competitiveness. Magsaysay, who chairs the Senate committee on trade and commerce, and science and technology, has asked government agencies to expedite their preparation for the use of IT, as mandated by the Electronics Commerce Law that he sponsored in the Senate. Senator Magsaysay, preaching what he has been practicing, has also encouraged the private sector to get the necessary technical skills. Toward that end he established a computer loan fund that makes available interest-free computer loans to workers, payable in monthly installments of P1,000 to P2,500.

The 'Grand Debate'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS THE last pair of senatorial candidates prepared for their turn at the rostrum, I turned to colleagues Conrad de Quiros and Ceres Doyo on the INQUIRER panel, declaring with relief: "At last, the end is in sight!"

We had been asked to be at the GMA-7 Broadway studios by noon for the taping of the "Grand Senatorial Debate." It was now past 7 p.m. and we had baked under the punishing klieg lights for the better part of seven hours. But now the show was closing, and to quote Mike Enriquez as we met in the queue on the way to the rest room: "One good thing about TV is that sooner or later, the show comes to an end!"

But don't let this grousing scare you off. The show will run for three hours tomorrow, from 9 p.m. to midnight over GMA-7, simulcast over dzBB and all member-stations of RGMA. True, the political contest has dominated network and cable TV the past weeks, and candidates have tried to plaster their faces and bombard us with their images in every way possible. The "Grand Senatorial Debate," though, may be your best and last chance to make a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the men and women asking for your votes. Well, of the men and women who took part in the debates, that is.

I must admit I had some apprehensions about the debate's marquee value since none of the mainstream Puwersa ng Masa candidates bothered to show up. This despite an agreement signed by PnM campaign manager Rep. Butz Aquino that the party would field two front-runners and two trailing candidates in the event. Still, the two PnM guest candidates (Orly Mercado and Santanina Rasul) and two independents (Perfecto Yasay and Bono Adaza) more than filled the bill.

* * *

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition slate was a more than adequate match for them. "Mareng Winnie" Monsod, Serge Osmeña, Liway Chato (who took the place of Ernesto "Boy" Herrera) and Obet Pagdanganan gamely tackled the topics and issues they had drawn for: what to do with former President Erap, education, poverty, the economy and employment and peace and order and national security.

The INQUIRER panel and that from GMA-7—Mike Enriquez, Cheche Lazaro and Luchi Cruz Valdes—had turns asking questions of the candidates, while each pair had a chance to debate each other. For me, though, the most exciting and unpredictable portions were the "interrogations" from the studio audience. Made up of representatives of sectoral groups, NGOs and communities, as well as of campaigners and supporters of the candidates, the audience brought real-life and direct concerns to the attention of the "senatorial candidates." More than once, the interrogators would even engage the candidates in mini-debates, as well as impassioned harangues.

Given the "town hall" format of the debate, it would be difficult to say who among the candidates "won." But I think Orly Mercado proved by his performance at the debate how years of media exposure gives him an edge as both a candidate and official. "Mareng Winnie" Monsod was given an opportunity to display her command of facts and focused analysis, while Obet Pagdanganan came across as the most amiable and reasonable.

As Ceres said at the end of the debate: "I really feel sorry for those who didn't show up." I expect that voters who have yet to fill up all 13 slates for senators will have greater basis to choose the rest of the lineup from the eight who took part in this "Grand Senatorial Debate."

* * *

ELECTION season in Marikina was bannered by the painting of the bridge along Marcos Highway a bright, blinding fuchsia. This happens to be the campaign color of Marides Fernando, who is running for mayor of this new city since her husband Bayani or "BF" as he is better known, is on his last term.

As a matter of principle, I'm not in favor of political dynasties, but I'm willing to make an exception in the case of the Fernando couple. BF has shown himself to be an exceptional, hard-working mayor. The results of his hard work can be seen in Marikina's clean, paved streets, the remarkable transformation of the Marikina River and the river district, the creation of the city's own rescue and emergency service and many other programs that residents of other cities and towns in the NCR can only envy.

After meeting her, it's obvious that Marides is very much her husband's partner, looking after the family business while BF has been busy as Marikina mayor. Even then, she has found the time to organize the women of Marikina.

Also running in Marikina but for district representative (and on the opposition) is Jun Farcon, who goes by the rather incongruous monicker "JFK."

Farcon brings to the work of legislation impressive credentials, being both a lawyer and a CPA, as well as a long-time civic leader. I am going by the heartfelt recommendation of his mother Ludy, a staunch supporter of Abanse! Pinay. Sunday being Mother's Day, I hope Marikina residents take one mother's recommendation to heart.

* * *

A CLASSMATE from high school days, Tina Pargas Bawagan, asked me to write about a dispute between the Philippine Science High School Employees Union and the PSHS Board of Trustees.

The dispute centers on the decision of the PSHS Board not to reappoint Acting Director Luzita Alcid, who has been with the school for the past 15 years and who, during her one-year term as OIC, proved to be "an efficient and effective school administrator."

The union has raised points against the board for, among other things, lack of transparency and changing the rules during the evaluation process. After Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro refused to heed their complaints, the union has raised the issue to the Civil Service Commission. Meantime, just a few weeks before school starts, the premier science education institution in the country faces the prospect of opening classes without an administrator.

Rich sources for columns

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN people ask where I get the material that goes into these columns, I often point them to the prewar periodicals in the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University that now houses the Pardo de Tavera Collection as well as the American Historical Collection. I also tell interested people to visit the Lopez Memorial Museum, the National Library, or the UP Main Library in Diliman. When I am in these places I request a bound volume of periodicals and spend hours just going over old news, looking at old pictures and taking notes for future columns.

Just recently, someone asked me what Rizal's complexion was like and I described him as being fair, with a *mestizo* Chinese sheen. There is so much on Rizal in old periodicals from the reminiscences of friends and relatives interviewed every year on or around June 19 and Dec. 30. One interview I found in my 1919 notes had Sixto Lopez in Hong Kong describing Rizal in his youth as a bit careless in the way he dressed. A bit scruffy, but Lopez added quickly that his underwear—*ropas interiores*—were, of course, always clean. In Europe, Rizal blossomed and learned to dress more elegantly. He followed the fashion in Paris and from then on was described as a "dandy." Not all these faded memories are reliable though. Contrary to what Rizal wrote his family about not taking a bath in weeks, Lopez claims that Rizal, in Europe, bathed two to three times a day! This is obviously exaggerated as the frugal Rizal had to pay a small fee for a bath and sometimes settled for a face towel and a basin rather than a full bath. Lopez described Rizal as "pulchritude personified," whatever that means.

The Lopez interview is illustrated with the a famous photo of Lopez and Rizal taken in a Hong Kong studio in 1892. Lopez recounted that while posing for the camera he reminded Rizal to smile. In pictures, at least, they should carry smiling faces—*cara risueña*—that was customary in the Philippines. Rizal disagreed and said in a Tagalog quote now lost in translation that "there could come a time when you are shot by the Spaniards, then you should carry the face of a death-row prisoner, that would be more appropriate." In this photograph, like all his other mug shots, Rizal does not smile.

Not all the attention of periodicals was on Rizal because there were living historical figures like Emilio Aguinaldo who continued to make news. In September 1929 I saw a small news item on Aguinaldo's unpaid debt to the Philippine National Bank in the sum of P80,000. Earlier, in 1915, Aguinaldo took his first trip in a US Navy submarine and described the trip as short but rather hot and stuffy due to inadequate ventilation. He added that:

"Commander Moses was a splendid host and explained to me everything about the wonderful vessel, its method of sinking into the deep and rising; the operation of the periscope, the launching of torpedoes, and in fact, everything that pertains to the strange fighting machine."

One wonders if Aguinaldo imagined his navy in 1899 with submarines. Perhaps, in his twilight years, Aguinaldo wished his government had airplanes during the Filipino-American War. What thoughts raced in his mind when he was photographed wearing what appear to be goggles in the cockpit of a two-passenger airplane for a short spin? There is a lot of coverage of history and historical figures. One magazine Renacimiento Filipino, is particularly fascinating for its coverage of funerals. A whole issue in 1911 was devoted to the death of Rizal's mother, Teodora Alonso, and goes step by step from photos of the venerable mother from life to death. If you think media coverage today is intrusive, you can see its roots in the way Renacimiento Filipino splashed a spread with Teodora Alonso in her coffin! One hero's last breath was documented by the same magazine as he expired in a hospital bed. While too morbid for my taste, I cannot keep my eyes off these pictures.

Coverage of the participants in the Philippine Revolution and Fil-American War is a sign that there was a wave of nationalism in those days under the Stars and Stripes. In a 1926 editorial, The Independent lamented the fact that pictures of American heroes, like Washington and Lincoln, as well as presidents of the United States adorned the walls of public schools all around the country. The magazine suggested that pictures of Filipino patriots be included in the wallpaper that brainwashed the pupils in 7,000 public schools. However: "...in the collection of pictures of Filipino patriots which will be displayed in our centers of learning not more than twenty [patriots] should be included, not because the number of our patriots is so small, our heroes, martyrs, politicians and notable citizens who deserve such honor being many...aside from financial consideration...it is necessary...to take away from schools and public offices pictures of politicians, officials and other persons of distinction who are still living and whose merits or motives which inspired the commemoration are yet an unknown quantity. Many of the names of the streets, plazas, parks, etc. and some towns should be taken away while history has not yet justified them."

Then as now, history was called upon to judge on the merits of the living.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

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Voting against the debt on May 14

ALLOW me to share something that I hope will inform and excite my fellow voters and even those who, for some reason, will not be able to exercise their right to vote.

If I firmly stick to my yardstick of new politics and choose only those leaders I think are competent, possess the highest integrity and have our people's interests at heart, there will be precious few candidates who will find their way to my ballot.

Lucky for me there is a parallel "voting" activity that I think would make me and the rest of the Filipino people winners—the Vote Against the Debt (VAD).

The VAD adopts and builds on the Jubilee call to recall the debt. In the Philippines, this call has targeted the scrapping of laws that guarantee automatic appropriations for debt payments (Presidential Decree 1177 and Section 26(b) Book 6 of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987).

The VAD tells government to change its priorities from debt service to spending for basic services such as education and health. It tells government to stop paying for illegitimate debts such as the debts from bankrupt projects like the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and the debts left behind by so many presidents' cronies which were guaranteed by government.

The campaign comes to a head on election day with the setting up of VAD stations where voters and non-voters can come to sign the petition to scrap the automatic appropriations law. (The VAD is permitted by the Commission on Elections to set up stations near polling centers.)

I hope you and your readers will join me in the VAD. This is a chance for us to lead those who are seeking to be our leaders in the direction we want to take.—**BECKY LOZADA, member, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiyaga St., Central District, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Unprofessional

FILIPINO professional drivers are hardly professional in their driving. They break all the driving rules and ignore road signs.

For instance, on the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), drivers of slow-moving vehicles do not take the innermost lane as the rules say. And bus drivers load and unload their passengers right in front of "no loading and unloading" signs!

Are the professional NLEX traffic enforcers as unprofessional?—**T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**

What if they win?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M glad Satur Ocampo brought out that point about the *sonas*, or the ransacking of squatter areas by cops and soldiers in search of "rebels." Ocampo's words should carry added weight because his group has been identified with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—they were allies during Edsa II. Well, they do not owe Ms Macapagal anything, Ms Macapagal owes them something.

Malacañang has denied conducting *sonas*, and insisted that what they've done is carry out mop-up operations that adhere to human rights, give or take an excess or two. That is not what I myself have heard from victims and witnesses. The cops have been indiscriminate in their arrests, and have thought nothing about invading privacy, which is a euphemism for kicking down doors and bludgeoning suspects who resist their being arrested without warrant.

Are they lying? Are they saying those things because they are Erap loyalists? Well, we have the story of the 4-year-old boy who drowned while fleeing with his parents to escape the storm troopers. And we **have** seen something lately that gives credence to these fears. That was the horrendous sight a couple of weeks ago of a row of cops, in uniform and civilian clothes, punching, kicking and beating suspects with truncheons, like victims of a hazing, while they were being brought into custody.

Their boss would tell Mel Tiangco—we were watching the footage of the height of the riot in the morning of May 1—that it was just pent-up emotion, the cops were human too. Well, I could understand frustration, anger and fear. I could understand how the cops could do those things to rioters in the heat of battle, though even that tugged at the limits of discipline, which anti-riot squads are supposed to possess. But to do those things to youths with hands tied behind their backs? And within the safety of the outer perimeters of Malacañang, behind fire trucks and a phalanx of gleaming shields?

If that could happen to suspects in the furious light of day while the whole world watched, it can happen to suspects in the abysmal dead of night while only the moon and stars and mute neighbors watched.

But what makes all this doubly condemnable, as Ocampo himself points out, is the double standards that have been applied to the generals of the "rebellion" and the foot soldiers. I myself never worried that the declaration of a "state of rebellion" would lead to martial law—that was a ridiculous concept, as I told a TV audience—although I personally thought it might have been better to just suspend the writ of habeas corpus for 48 hours. A "state of rebellion" is a legal invention, a suspension of the writ is not. Government has the right to defend itself by draconian measure in the face of draconian threat. I applauded when Ms Macapagal came out with fighting words, expressing her resolve to punish the perpetrators of the Labor Day Mendiola riots. I am not applauding now.

For the zeal with which government has pursued the rabble is not matched by the same zeal with which it has pursued its leaders. Indeed, the harshness with which it has borne down on the rioters is matched only by the leniency with which it has treated the hecklers who drove them to riot. Javert may have been inquisitorial in his pursuit of criminals, but he was at least an equal-opportunity Inquisitor: he hounded rich and poor alike, the Jean Valjeans as much as the Fantines of this world. We have no such thing here. On the contrary, what we have is the spectacle of a stern-faced judge who would put to hard labor the beggars who have stolen a loaf of bread while restoring the ringleaders who conscript them to that end to their station in life.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who was maniacal in her fury, pointing the hungry crowd in the direction of Malacañang, was never arrested. Ping Lacson and Gringo Honasan, who crouched like a tiger and hid like a dragon—though that insults one of my favorite movies—waiting to spring on an unsuspecting democracy, continue to crouch and hide in broad daylight, and government cannot find them. And Juan Ponce Enrile, the man who plotted against democracy all his life, even faking an ambush on himself toward that end, is out on bail.

None of that is excused by saying that we must follow the law, and the law is powerless to detain them. At the very least because government has been crowing that it has all the evidence to show they plotted to overthrow government. I myself, as I've said before, find the bigger crime sending the innocent to the slaughter, which was what Santiago, Enrile and company did when they roistered the crowd to "*lusob*" mode and pointed them in the direction of Malacañang. The evidence there is not just plentiful, it has been seen by everyone who watched Net 25 a couple of weeks ago.

At the very most, that is no excuse because it is a stupid law that can be slapped on the poor and weak like a handcuff on a tattooed wrist but slides off the rich and powerful like oil on Teflon. Government may imagine that not jailing Santiago et al. may help to appease their supporters and prevent another "Edsa" on or before the elections. If so, it is wrong. Dead wrong. It is not only because Erap's charisma is non-transferable, and fingerprinting Santiago and company won't have the same effect on the poor that Erap's did. It is also because not jailing them is the very spark you put on the fires of seething unrest. You come down hard on the rioters, rousing them from their fitful sleep with bludgeons and slamming the cell door on them, while you treat their ringleaders with kid gloves, humoring them and talking about the virtues of gentility and fair play and letting the law take its own sweet course, and you **guarantee** that the poor will explode again and again like a choked up volcano. Maybe not another Edsa, but certainly another blast of violence and mayhem. That was what "Edsa III" was all about—a violent heaving of the poor to protest the contrasting ways the rich and the poor are treated in this country.

We've barely gotten past the halfway mark this year, and we've already seen variously the culmination of the impeachment trial, Edsa II, the arrest of Erap, "Edsa III," and the Mendiola riot and its aftermath. If you think you've seen the last, guess again. The way this magic-realist country is shaping up, with all its bizarre twists and turns, you wonder what bang or whimper is going to hit it next. It could always be: What if Enrile and company get to win in the elections?

You can't jail them now, when they've got guilt written all over their faces, how can you jail them later, when they've got an electoral mandate under their belt?

* * *

I'll join the chorus: You might want to watch the INQUIRER-GMA 7's senatorial debate on Saturday at 9 p.m. You'll make your favorite newspaper and TV channel happy, you'll make yourself happy. And probably a little wiser before you vote.

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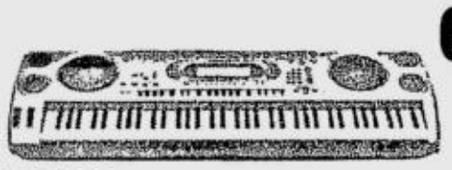

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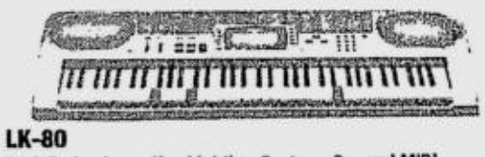

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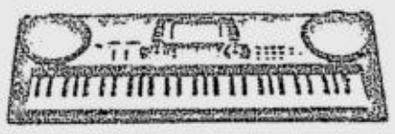
●Size (W x D x H): 1161 x 421 x 135 mm ●Weight: 8.8 kg ●Batteries: D-size x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-12 ●EAN code: 4971850312154

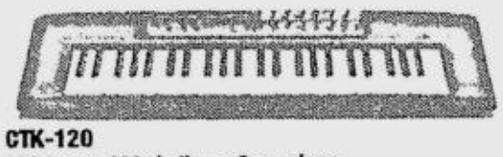
LK-50
Key Lighting System with new Song Bank Tunes
●Size (W x D x H): 943 x 378 x 134 mm ●Weight: 5.4 kg ●Batteries: AA-size x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-5 ●EAN code: 4971850312260

WK-1600
76 full-size keys and sophisticated piano sound
●Size (W x D x H): 1225 x 423 x 167 mm ●Weight: 9.3 kg ●Batteries: D-size x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-12 ●EAN code: 4971850312291



CTK-651
Registration memory, one-touch presets, bass-reflex speaker system
●Size (W x D x H): 960 x 375 x 152 mm ●Weight: 5.8 kg ●Batteries: D-12 x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-5 ●EAN code: 4971850312222

LK-60
Key Lighting System with new Song Bank Tunes
●Size (W x D x H): 961 x 391 x 144 mm ●Weight: 6.0 kg ●Batteries: D-size x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-5 ●EAN code: 4971850312246



CTK-120
100 tones, 100 rhythms, 2 speakers
●Size (W x D x H): 857 x 285 x 86 mm ●Weight: 3.2 kg ●Batteries: AA-size x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-5 ●EAN code: 4971850312048

CTK-501
100 song bank keyboard
●Size (W x D x H): 961 x 381 x 139 mm ●Weight: 5.4 kg ●Batteries: D-size x 6 ●AC adaptor: AD-5 ●EAN code: 4971850311621

MA-120
100 tones, 100 rhythms, auto-accompaniments
●Size (W x D x H): 684 x 238 x 75 mm ●Weight: 2.1 kg ●Batteries: AA-size x 5 ●AC adaptor: AD-1 ●EAN code: 4971850320524

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The WORLD

120 killed, scores injured in Ghana football stampede

ACCRA—A hundred and twenty people were killed and scores more injured in a stampede following crowd trouble at a football match in the Ghanaian capital Accra, local radio reported yesterday.

The trouble began late Wednesday after a 2-1 victory by reigning league champions Hearts of Oak when supporters of arch rivals Kumasi Ashanti Kotoko began to rip up seats at the Accra Sports stadium, hurling the seats and bottles onto the pitch.

In an attempt to quell the crowd, police fired rounds of tear gas into the stand where the angry fans were rioting, Joy FM radio reported.

People panicked and many were suffocated or crushed underfoot in the ensuing rush, unable to escape the trouble and tear gas as the gates were locked shut in the 40,000-capacity stadium, the radio reported.

Witnesses blamed the police action for starting the fatal stampede during the derby match between the country's two biggest clubs.

No official death toll was announced, but the director of Accra's military hospital, Gen. Dan Twum, said that 102 bodies had been taken there along with 53 injured fans.

Scores of parents and friends of the victims waited tearfully at the army hospital for news of their loved ones.

Private radio Joy FM put the total death toll at 120, saying that a further five bodies had been taken to a police hospital and 13 to a local private hospital. A further 150 people were injured, according to the radio station.

Ghana's presidential affairs minister Jake Obetsebi-Lamptey announced that a commission of inquiry was being set up to look into the tragedy

"Everyone should remain calm and allow the hospitals to do their work," he said.

President John Kufuor made no official statement but an aide said he had visited the military hospital overnight was "totally devastated" by the tragedy and had called an extraordinary meeting of his Cabinet for later Thursday.

The radio station broadcast appeals for doctors and paramedics to come to the aid of the swamped local hospitals.

It was the fourth incident of its kind in Africa in less than a month.

In Cote d'Ivoire at the weekend, incidents between supporters and police led to one death and 39 injuries at the Houphouet-Boigny stadium in Abidjan.

At least 10 people were killed and 51 injured on April 29 during a match at Lubumbashi, in the south east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to official figures.

At Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg, a stampede caused 43 deaths and 160 injuries on April 11 when a mass of ticketless supporters pushed their way into the stadium already packed full with more than 60,000 spectators for the derby match between Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs.

In a relatively quiet atmosphere outside the ground after the match, supporters confirmed that crowd violence had started the tragic sequence of events and that the stadium gates had been locked.

Most witnesses blamed the police action for precipitating the tragedy. *AFP*

T-rex's ancestor's bones found in UK

LONDON—A previously unknown relative of Tyrannosaurus rex has been unearthed in Britain, adding a limb to the family tree of the fearsome predator, scientists said Wednesday.

Eotyrannus lengi, named after collector Gavin Leng who found the first bone on the Isle of Wight, was a 4.5-meter long carnivore that lived 120 to 125 million years ago.

Paleontologists described the discovery as one of the most important archaeological finds made in Britain.

Martin Munt, acting curator of the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology, which is coordinating the dig, said the Eotyrannu—"early tyrant"—was an important piece in the evolutionary jigsaw of T-rex.

"The remains start to fill in the family tree of life. They are a missing link. The T-rex was around 60 to 70 million years ago. At that time this skeleton was already 55 million years old," Munt said. *AP*

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Seoul solons ask Tokyo court to ban textbook

TOKYO—South Korean lawmakers yesterday asked a Japanese court to ban the sale of a school history textbook that critics across Asia say whitewashes Tokyo's wartime atrocities, officials at the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo said.

The Japanese government in April approved eight controversial textbooks that reportedly use the euphemistic term "advance" to describe Japan's takeover of South Korea in the early decades of the 20th century and its invasions of other Asian countries.

Critics also say the books fail to mention many atrocities, including the use of hundreds of thousands of Korean and other Asian women as prostitutes for Japan's World War II soldiers. The texts will be offered for use at junior high schools beginning in 2002.

"Lately, the Japanese government has ignored the warnings of its Asian neighbors, rationalizing its wartime imperialism and approving textbooks that erase from the record any mention of 'comfort women,' the four South Korean lawmakers said in a statement, referring to the women forced into sexual slavery. *AP*

Wahid quizzed on scandals

JAKARTA—State prosecutors have questioned embattled Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid over his alleged role in two financial scandals, an official said yesterday.

Attorney General's Office spokesperson Mulyoharjo said Wahid had been quizzed at the state palace Saturday over the scandals, which have been the basis of two parliamentary censures against him.

"Yes, the questioning session did take place on Saturday," Mulyoharjo said.

The Jakarta Post reported Wahid had clarified the extent of his knowledge of the "Bulogate" case, involving the embezzlement of some $3.13 million from the state logistics agency.

He was also questioned on a $2-million donation from the Sultan of Brunei, which a parliamentary probe team says he failed to fully account for.

The Post quoted Mulyoharjo as saying that Wahid had answered 20 questions from prosecutors over his alleged role in the Bulog case, and insisted that he had never received any of the funds involved.

Neither the daily nor Mulyoharjo gave further details of the president's replies.

Parliament first censured Wahid on Feb. 1 after a probe found, without conclusive evidence, he could be "suspected" of involvement in Bulogate, and had failed to account for the Bruneigate funds.

The censure, which sparked a week of often-violent protests by Wahid's supporters in East Java and rising calls for his resignation by his opponents, was followed by a second censure late last month.

Wahid, who has vowed to serve out the rest of his term until 2004, has admitted he had sought funds from Bulog for humanitarian aid in Aceh, but claimed that he had changed his mind after he learned that a presidential decree was needed for such a request. *AFP*

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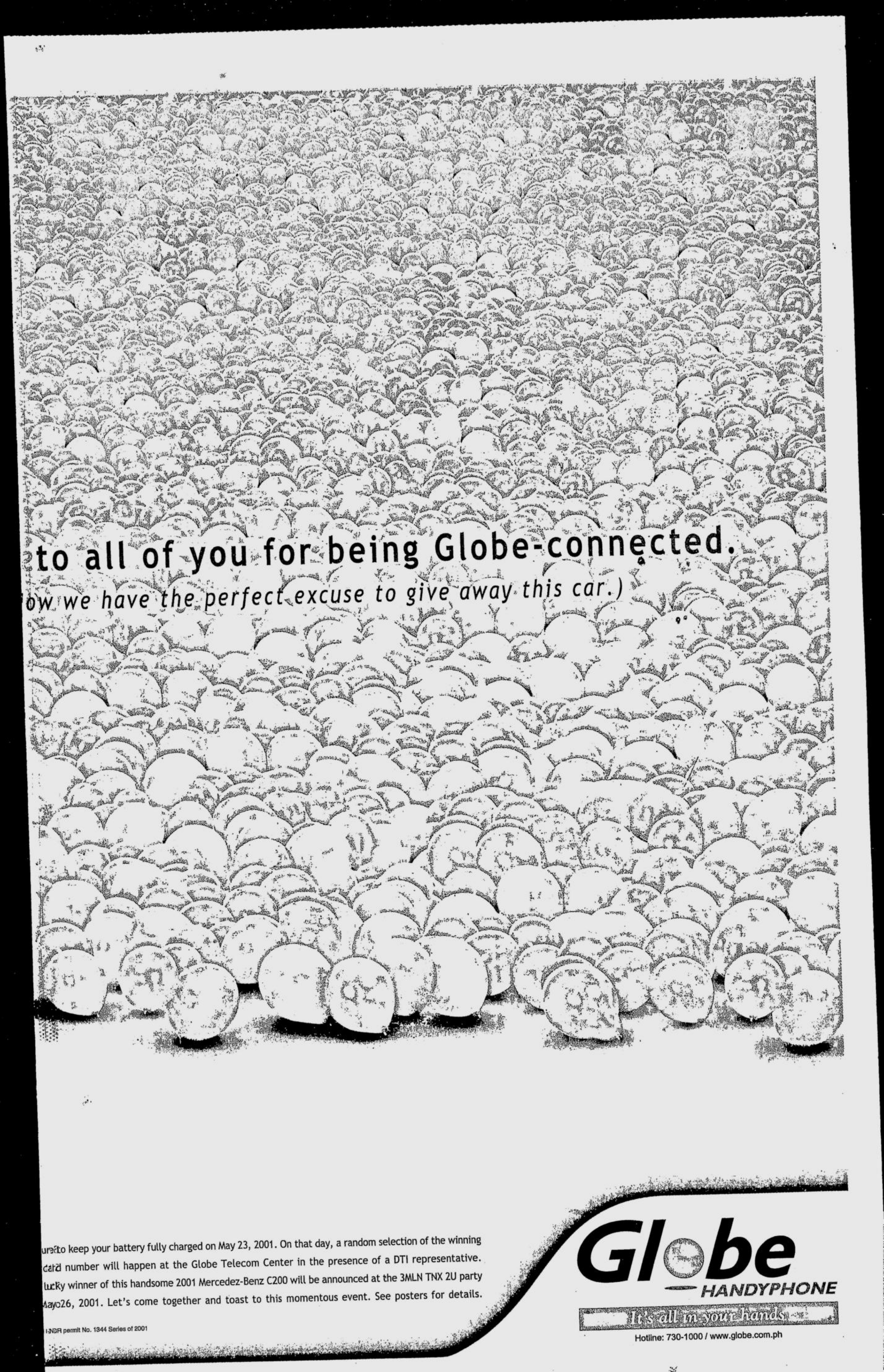

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Saudi cuts labor imports

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia is planning to reduce its number of foreign workers by 85 percent during the next 30 years, according to a Labor Ministry working paper.

The paper, received Wednesday by The Associated Press, said the number of foreign workers must be cut from 7.2 million to 1 million in order to provide jobs for Saudis.

About two-thirds of the foreign workers are Asians, mostly from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Arabs from other nations as well as other foreigners make up the rest.

Saudi Arabia has an estimated population of 15.7 million, including foreigners. But estimates say that by 2030, there will be nearly 39 million people, of whom 28.7 million will be Saudis. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Police probe use of fake money in polls

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police on Thursday busted a syndicate counterfeiting money, and seized fake P1,000 and P500 bills intended for distribution to voters in the May 14 elections.

Police detectives and intelligence operatives found only three P500 bills, seven P1,000 bills, 28 P10 bills—all fake—and 156 blank bills in the house of Glicerio and Euferia Catalig in an operation that began 6 a.m. at the SMC Village in Barangay Quebiawan here.

Judge Rodrigo Flores of the municipal trial court here issued the search and seizure order.

"There are indications that the fake money previously produced by the Cataligs have already been distributed," Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan said. He did not elaborate.

Supt. Sonny Cunanan, city police chief, said investigators were looking into reports that the Cataligs were supplying counterfeit money to political candidates.

The police also reported confiscating firearms and various paraphernalia used in faking money.

The Cataligs are detained at the city jail. Charges of counterfeiting and possessing illegal firearms were being prepared against the couple, Cunanan said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Low turnout in absentee voting for AFP

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 80 percent of military and police personnel in the Bicol region were unable to cast their votes in yesterday's special absentee voting for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, five days ahead of the scheduled May 14 elections.

Lt. Col. Pendatun Guro, AFP Bicol spokesperson, said only about 20 percent of over 4,000 Army, Air Force and Navy personnel stationed in the region had been able to vote in the special election.

Guro blamed the low turnout of voters from the military to lack of information and lack of time.

He said that had the military been informed of the special registration at least a month ahead, more soldiers would have been able to cast their votes.

He said in the 1998 elections, a similar thing happened for the same reason.

He said in future elections, the AFP should be able to recommend to the Comelec the conduct of an awareness campaign on absentee voting.

Zacarias Zaragosa, Comelec Bicol regional director, told the INQUIRER that all military and police personnel assigned to the Bicol region had received their absentee voters' application forms in the first week of April through their commanders.

"So there is no excuse for them not to be able to vote in time for the special election," Zaragosa said.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bataan, Zambales and Pangasinan will experience rains and gusty winds and coastal waters will be moderate to tough. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

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NPAs say Canlaon killings 'revolutionary justice'

BACOLOD CITY—The New People's Army tagged as a "victory for revolutionary justice" the killing of Canlaon City vice mayor and mayoral candidate Jose Cardenas, his sister, Councilor Jessica Cardenas, and four others.

Bayani Obrero of the NPA Gatmaitan Operation Command said in a statement that the death of the Cardenas siblings was sought by the "broad masses" of Canlaon City in Negros Oriental.

"They were warlords who held absolute control over the economy and politics of Canlaon," he added.

Obrero also said Jose Cardenas was found guilty of several crimes that included murder, harassment and arrest of farmers whose land had been taken from them, illegal logging, gun-running, drug-trafficking and suppression of the people's freedom of speech.

He also accused the siblings of propagating a reign of terror in Canlaon "through the use of armed goons, control of the Army and the police, and by arming barangay officials, *tanods* and informers."

Dr. Siegfredo Cardenas, brother of the slain siblings, denied that their family was a warlord. "I don't think so," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Ondo (Jose) was loved by the masses. And he loved the masses. The masses would not have wished him ill," he said.

Siegfredo insisted that the family still believed that killers hired by a political party were responsible for the ambush-slaying, not the NPA.

"If the (suspects) were NPAs, they would have known the way. The people of Barangay Bucalan told us that the assassins were even asking them where the road was leading to," he said.

The Lakas-NUCD-People Power Coalition has fielded Judith Cardenas, wife of Jose, to be its standard bearer. Siegfredo is running for councilor of Canlaon City as replacement of the slain Jessica.

Jose and Jessica Cardenas were killed along with their four companions in an ambush by about 12 armed men on April 27 in Sitio Pinamintigan, Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City, after attending a rally in nearby Sitio Bulacan.

While the NPA continues to sow terror in the countryside, the guerrillas apparently have not stopped recruiting minors.

In Davao City, the military announced the capture of another child rebel on May 1.

Fifteen-year-old "Ka Michelle" is the 19th suspected child rebel captured by the Army and turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Southern Mindanao in the past three years.

Maj. Vicente Tomas, spokesperson of the Army's 73rd infantry battalion, said soldiers captured Michelle after rebel returnee Loreto Palma spotted and identified her on board a jeep in Sitio Pagan Pequeño in Barangay Tamugan, Marilog District here.

Michelle was on her way to the city's downtown area to join a rally, allegedly upon orders of her superiors in the NPA's Front 52 operating in areas straddling Marilog and Paquibato districts here and Bukidnon province.

Patrolling soldiers alerted by the rebel returnee immediately stopped the jeep and took her to the 73rd IB headquarters in Malagos in Baguio District.

But the Army confined Michelle to their camp for a week and failed to turn her over to DSWD within the 24-hour period as required under the implementing rules of RA 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.

But Tomas claimed that it was not safe for Michelle to be turned over immediately to the DSWD at that time. He said they received reports that the rebels were out to get or even kill Michelle allegedly because of an NPA policy to kill captured comrades or those who have surrendered.

A bio-data furnished by the Army to the media identified Michelle as a radio operator of the Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda or an armed propaganda team of the NPA Front 52. *Carla Gomez and Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau and Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'KBL, KMU' campaign favorites in Iloilo

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—When it's mealtime, KBL and KMU take on different meanings in the province during this political campaign season.

The KBL is not the political machinery of the Marcoses but an Ilonggo dish called "*Kadyos-Baboy-Langka.*" The KMU is not the fiery labor group but the highly favorite, "*Kadyos-Manok-Ubad.*"

These two are often the staple during noon meals offered by politicians in the province to their staff and supporters, who would drop by or linger over at their campaign headquarters.

"Kadyos," also known as pigeon peas and black-eyed beans, are Ilonggo favorites. Cooked with green jackfruit and chicken or pork, the dish can serve legions of supporters.

The slices of jackfruit are often mistaken for pork cuts because *kadios'* purple juice stain the meat and vegetables alike.

Ubad is the core of banana trunks that is dismissed in other provinces as fit for hogs but loved by Ilonggos. It is cut in thin slices, sprinkled with salt and crushed by hands before cooking. It goes well with pork or chicken, and serves as extender.

An informal survey and visits to campaign headquarters in the province showed that KMU and KBL are the top mealtime choices of candidates and campaigners alike.

"They stretch our limited food budget, which is 20 percent of my campaign expenses," said James Esmeralda, Lakas-NUCD candidate for mayor in Igbaras town, 40 kilometers south of here.

Campaign managers said they believed that food is an important aspect of a successful election bid.

Roberto Armada, Lakas-NUCD vice gubernatorial candidate in Iloilo, said voters could tell a winning candidate by the kind of food he or she serves.

"Supporters of opposing camps, if they happen to be together, would compare notes on the campaign logistics, including food and they would tell on politicians who scrimp," he said.

Esmeralda said KBL and KMU are their standard fare not because campaign funds are short but rather his supporters do not feel good if served with "everyday food," like dried fish, "paksiw" (fish cooked in vinegar with salt, ginger and garlic) or "miswa" noodles.

"Serving meat, pork or chicken, raises the morale of supporters. Some fish, especially the small ones with lots of bones are a no-no. Our campaigners receive so little for a day's work but we see to it that they are well-fed," said Dora Sonza, a relative of Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate Demy Sonza.

Politicians usually hire kitchen staff honed at preparing large pots of food fit for rural feasts. There is strict division of labor among cooks and hired hands to perform tasks like washing the dishes, chopping onions, among others.

At a given mealtime, there could be some 50 to 100 mouths to feed. The number would increase as election nears.

The kitchen staff stays up late to serve the midnight snack, usually coffee, *salabat* (ginger brew), *pancit molo* (Iloilo's version of wanton soup) and *pan de sal*, or orange juice for those who arrive late from rallies and sorties. They also start cooking at dawn because politicians set off early to campaign.

Esmeralda said he helps in planning the menu that often include an appetizer, a main dish and dessert. Three days before elections, he plans to butcher several pigs to feed his supporters.

10,000 more workers lost jobs in C. Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—More than 10,000 workers in Central Luzon lost their jobs between January and March this year, bringing the ranks of the unemployed in the region to nearly 400,000, reports obtained by the INQUIRER from the regional labor department here showed.

The number of displaced workers for the three-month period was almost thrice higher than the 3,794 laid-off employees for the same period last year.

At least 16 establishments closed during this year's politically turbulent three-month period, seeing 2,247 workers displaced as protests swelled against the Estrada administration and People Power II brought to power President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Fifty-two more companies reduced their workforce, dismissing 1,674 workers.

At least 2,634 more workers from 70 firms were laid off due to non-economic reasons, the regional Department of Labor and Employment said, citing reports submitted by distressed companies.

Fifty more companies reported the temporary retrenchment of 3,536 employees.

The DOLE also monitored that 16,675 vacancies were solicited for the three-month period.

It said it has supervised the payment of P40.5 million worth of separation packages for 1,286 workers in 40 companies.

Labor relations cases, however, declined from 100 to 91. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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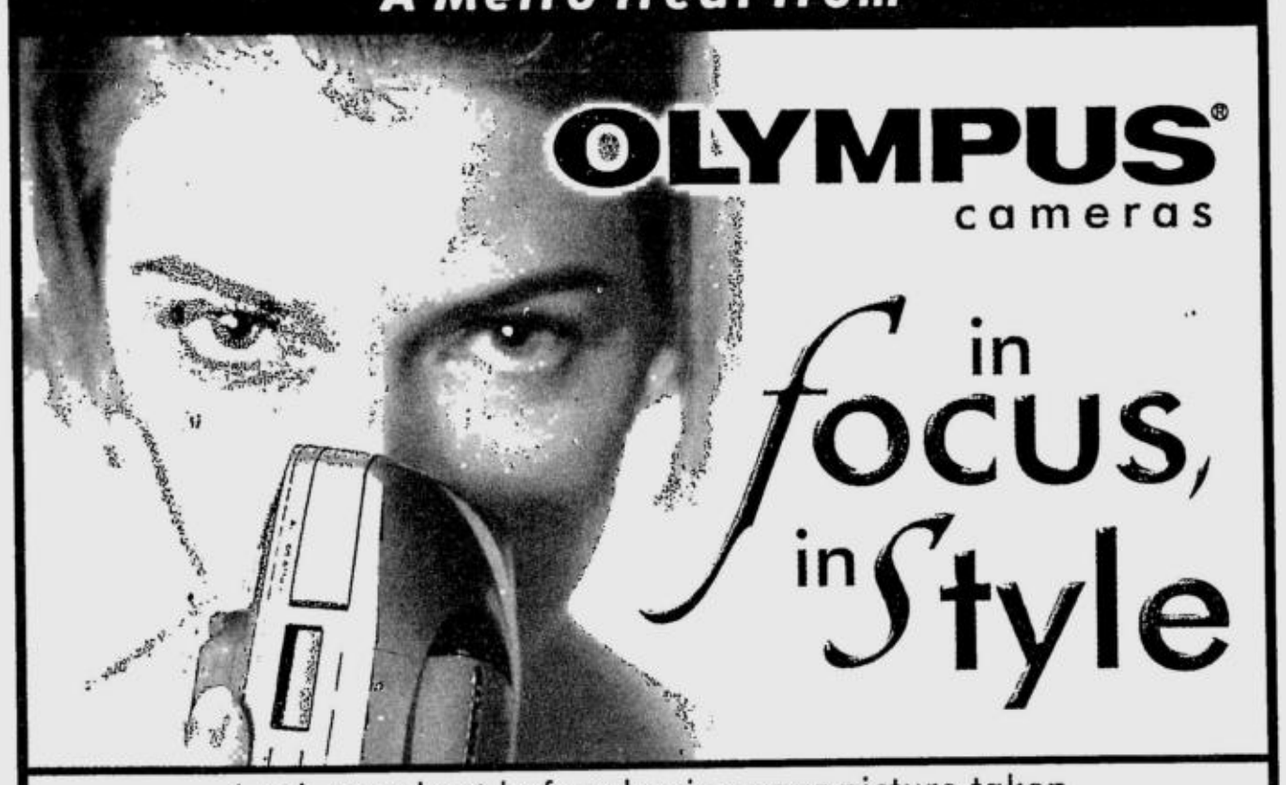

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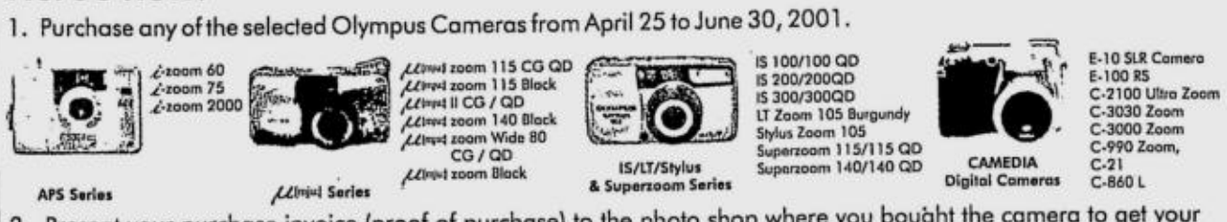

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Comelec ousts mayor 5 days before polls

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Commission on Elections' (Comelec) first division Wednesday unseated the mayor of Himamaylan and declared her closest rival in the 1998 elections the new mayor barely five days before the May 14 elections.

The Comelec ordered Mayor Luz Bayot to step down in favor of Carminia Bascon, Bayot's closest rival in the 1998 elections, in an order promulgated on May 9.

The poll body also reversed a decision by the Regional Trial Court that declared Bayot the winner in the 1998 mayoral elections in this town.

It said Bascon got 16,351 votes against Bayot's 16,203, or a lead of 148 votes.

Election Commissioners Rufino Javier, Luzviminda Tancangco and Resurreccion Borra signed the resolution.

Bayot of the United Negros Alliance and Bascon of the Lakas-NUCD are the only contenders for the mayoral race in Himamaylan this coming May 14 elections.

In the 1998 elections, Bayot unseated Bascon, who was then the incumbent mayor, after Bayot was declared winner. A ballot count showed that Bayot got 16,304 votes compared to Bascon's 16,033 votes.

Bascon filed an election protest on June 25, 1998 before the RTC in Himamaylan, contesting the results in 130 precincts.

But Judge Jose Aguirre of the RTC Himamaylan ruled in favor of Bayot on Oct. 10, 2000, prompting Bascon to file an appeal before the Comelec on the ground that the court failed to count some ballots in three precincts.

In its resolution, the Comelec ruled that the RTC "gravely erred" when it excluded election results in Precinct 111-A that showed Bascon had 105 votes and Bayot, 59.

The Comelec also upheld Bascon's appeal on the results of the elections in Precinct no. 67A/67A-1 where she got 114 votes and Bayot 76 votes.

The poll body said the court's exclusion of the results in Precinct numbers 67A/67A-1 on the basis of uncorroborated testimony was also "erroneous."

"The exclusion in the canvass of election returns is proper only if there are (pieces of) evidence of tampering or falsification," it added.

"In an election contest where the correctness of the number of votes is involved, the best and most conclusive evidence are the ballots themselves. Where the ballots cannot be produced or are not available, the election returns would be the best evidence," the Comelec said, citing a Supreme Court ruling.

De Oro teachers brace for 'hell week'

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Public schoolteachers here are bracing for what they call "hell week."

"We fear this would be one of the worse elections. We are bracing for hell week," said Teddy Pagaspas, president of the Federation of Public and Private School Teachers (FPPT) in Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental.

Pagaspas said they fear that losing politicians would accuse them of engaging in cheating.

He said in Cagayan de Oro, some 1,000 teachers were charged in court by losing politicians who accused the teachers of massive cheating in the ballot counting during the 1995 elections.

Most of the cases were eventually dropped or dismissed by the court, according to Pagaspas.

"Those cases are just pure harassment but the damage to the integrity of the teachers was irrevocable," Pagaspas said.

He said supporters of losing politicians even resorted to teaching their children to greet teachers in their schools "Good morning, cheaters."

"Never, never again shall we allow this to happen again," Pagaspas said.

Lovenia Naces, chair of the FPPT's convenors committee, said they invited to a forum officials of the Commission on Elections, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and other concerned agencies to address their concerns.

She said many teachers, especially those assigned in hinterland barangays, find transporting election paraphernalia very difficult.

"Remember that the teachers refuse any offer of transportation from politicians lest they be accused of being partisan," Naces told the INQUIRER.

She said teachers would be exposed to danger and even death like what happened to Filomena Tatlonghari, 49, a public schoolteacher who was killed by armed men who grabbed a ballot box she was carrying in Mabini, Batangas in 1995.

"We need the commitment of various government agencies that this would not happen again," Naces said.

Pagaspas said they would set up centers in Comelec offices to monitor abuses or incidents involving teachers in Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental.

Meanwhile, Leobelito Obsioma, city schools division education supervisor 1, said they need some 4,000 more teachers to serve the city's 1,282 cluster precincts.

Obsioma said the city only has 2,000 public schoolteachers.

"Now we are compelled to assign people who are not teachers but who have served in past elections because the election materials will not be released unless the BEI is complete," Obsioma said. ***Froilan Gallardo with a report from Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Measles stalks 'lumad' villages, kills children

DAVAO CITY—At least eight *lumad* children died of measles last week while about a hundred more are stricken with the disease as government health workers apparently failed to stop a measles outbreak that stalked hinterland areas here since March.

The deaths were reported to the media yesterday by Ata-Matigsalug *lumads* who rushed their measles-stricken children to the government-run Davao Medical Center (DMC) last Tuesday.

At least nine Ata-Matigsalug children were confined at the DMC as of yesterday while measles continues to spread in communities straddling Barangays Marilog and Malamba in Marilog District, according to the *lumads*.

Romy Tandangan, 25, who rushed two of his children to the DMC here from their home in remote Sitio Sumilop in Barangay Marilog, said at least two children died in their village last week.

He said in March and April, six other children also died of measles but the government failed to record the deaths.

He said government doctors never came to their place since the outbreak started in March. He said Sitio Sumilop is a community of 137 families that can only be reached by foot after three to five hours of walking.

Loreto Pondo, 28, of Sitio Malikongkong said three other children died last week in his community.

"But if you include the children who died of measles in March and April, it would run to a total of 18 deaths," Pondo said in an interview at the DMC where his two other children are confined.

Tessie Ancintin, 21, said two children died of measles in Sitio Patag, also, in Barangay Marilog last week, while 10 other children were also stricken by the disease.

Ancintin came from remote Sitio Patag to rush her two-year-old child Joben to the DMC. ***Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Polls drive native Cordillera pigs closer to extinction

BY DESIREE CALUZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Jokes go around here that native pigs in the Cordillera are becoming extinct as the demand for them grows during the election season when politicians buy them to feed voters.

But the Bureau of Animal Industry and the provincial veterinary office in Benguet are not laughing. They said they are alarmed over the rate at which native pigs are becoming scarce in the region.

The native pig (*Suis Philippinensis*) or *buttog* in Ibaloi, is becoming extinct due to the fading practice of the traditional *cañao* (native feast) in the Cordillera, according to Dr. Reuben Cayad-an, Benguet PVO chief.

"*Bihira na kasi ang nagkakacañao sa* tribal communities (It is seldom that tribal communities practice *cañao*), so breeders of native pig in the communities are discouraged to raise it," Cayad-an said.

He said native pigs (also called black pigs for their dark skin) in the region are primarily used for festivities in tribal communities.

Cayad-an said even breeders in other provinces have gradually shifted to raising the foreign breed (white pig) that is fair-skinned because it is more practical and economically viable. He said this breed is sought commercially.

The *buttog*, characterized by its black skin and small ears, is considered the traditional domestic animal in the Cordillera.

Cordillerans swear that it is more delicious than the commercial breed.

In Benguet, native pigs are usually raised in the towns of Kibungan, Bakun, Mankayan, Kabayan and Kapangan.

The Ifugaos have no local name for native pigs as they name the pigs depending on their gender, age and the number of times these have given birth.

In Mt. Province, the native pig is called *alingo* while the Kankanaeys call it *besuang*.

Other communities in the Cordillera, Cagayan Valley and southern Mindanao also raise the native breed, BAI and PVO reports said.

Cayad-an said only around 4 percent of the 44,000 pigs recorded raised in the Cordillera are native. He said the number might drop should the practice of *cañao* continue to fade.

He said the black pig, which is considered as the "purest breed," can only be found in the Philippines. This breed is most resistant to diseases, specifically to foot and mouth disease (FMD), he said.

But Dr. Flor Pintor, meat control officer of the National Meat Inspection Commission in the Cordillera, said native pigs are also susceptible to hog diseases, such as FMD, but only with minimal effects.

Cayad-an said the regional agencies still have to launch a program to save the native pigs from extinction.

In October last year, veterinarians from the BAI in Tiaong, Quezon, started steps to save and breed the native pigs.

Cayad-an said BAI veterinarians gathered native pigs from Abra, Kalinga and Ifugao and took these to the animal breeding station in Tiaong for breeding.

Cayad-an said some hog raisers in the region also cross breed the native and foreign pigs for marketing purposes.

More troops sought in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Officials of the Commission on Elections and religious groups in Northern Luzon and the Cordillera have asked candidates, their supporters and the voters to keep the Monday elections clean and peaceful.

In Cagayan, Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of the Diocese of Tuguegarao asked Cagayanos to be vigilant following reports of violence in Enrile town.

"Keep polls in Cagayan peaceful, honest and non-violent or face the wrath of God," Talamayan said here.

Talamayan reminded teachers who would man the polls on Monday "to be models of honesty, integrity and service" by strictly implementing election rules to protect the sanctity of the ballots.

He also warned the candidates not to manipulate electoral returns and to avoid violence.

"Candidates who use terrorism and vote-buying to gain political power is not conforming to God's precept of "Vox populi, Vox Dei" (The voice of the people is the voice of God), thus they are not legally elected," he said.

In Baguio City, election officers in Baay-Licuan and Tineg towns in Abra have requested the Cordillera Comelec office in the city to provide them with "maximum security" and send additional soldiers to the towns to discourage New People's Army rebels and militiamen from interfering in the elections.

"There was a unanimous decision for the immediate request of additional forces in the locality considering that the peace and order situation is very critical and unstable," Editha Domaoal, Tineg election officer, said in a letter sent to the regional Comelec.

Domaoal said they have received reports of the frequent sighting of heavily armed men believed to be NPA rebels in remote areas in Tineg.

The reports indicated that the villages of Caganayan, Alaoa, Apao, Naglibacan, Anayan, Cogon, Lanec and Lapat-Balintag have been "infiltrated" by the NPA, he said.

Members of the board of election inspectors in Tineg assigned to remote areas in the town have reportedly objected to their assignments for fear of their lives. "They are required (and) forced to travel by foot, which involves more or less two days and several hours of hiking in between the villages frequently visited by the NPAs," Domaoal said.

Armando Velasco, Comelec regional director, acknowledged the need to augment government forces in Abra to protect election officers.

Velasco said they would monitor developments in Abra on Monday.

The Comelec has put Abra in its watchlist due to election-related violence and poll fraud in the 1998 elections.

Military officials in Northern Luzon are also verifying reports of the presence of private armed groups in Kalinga. ***Reports from Estanislao Caldez, Desiree Caluza, Vincent Cabreza and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 dead in yet another Samar ambush

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Two persons, including a mayor's supporter, were the latest fatalities in separate shooting incidents in two Samar towns.

Supt. Felipe Portacio, Samar police director, identified the victims as Romeo Tan of Sta. Margarita town and Chito Casaljay of Gandara town.

Tan is a supporter of reelectionist Mayor Ponciano "Jun" Alegria (Lakas-NUCD) of Sta. Margarita, 150 kilometers north of here.

Portacio said four men riding in a motorcycle confronted Tan about 6:15 a.m. Wednesday along the national highway near the town hall.

Then one of the suspects shot Tan three times, killing him on the spot, the police officer said.

Portacio said one of the suspects had been identified as Pablito Cailo, a resident of Barangay Cinco, Sta. Margarita.

Initial police reports said revenge could be the motive for Tan's killing.

Tan was allegedly the leader of an armed group operating in the area which was responsible for the May 2 ambush in Barangay Cinco, Sta. Margarita.

The target was Pepito Catalan, Cailo's brother. Catalan was seriously wounded in the attack and died three days later in the hospital.

His companion, Charito Ortiz, 24, said to be a youth leader of a local politician, was killed after she was hit by stray bullets.

On Tuesday, Norman Llanita gunned down Casaljay, 45, using a homemade shotgun in Barangay Sinidman, Gandara town, 180 kilometers north of here.

The two shooting incidents were the fifth in Samar since March.

On March 26, Robert Gulla, 26, was gunned down while inside a tricycle that was then crossing the Rosales Bridge, just several meters away from the police station in downtown Calbayog City.

MILF rebs burn bet's campaign truck

MATI, Davao Oriental—Suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels burned a truck carrying campaign paraphernalia of congressional candidate Corazon Malanyaon in Manay town on Monday night.

The truck was on its way to Tarragona town when flagged down by three suspected MILF rebels along the highway in Barangay San Ignacio in Manay. The suspects ordered the three men on board the truck to disembark, then they poured gasoline on the vehicle and set it on fire.

Supt. Jeorge Aquisap, provincial police chief, said the MILF rebels allegedly demanded an undetermined amount of money from Malanyaon, a Nationalist People's Coalition candidate vying for the congressional seat of the first district here.

Both the MILF and the New People's Army in the province are demanding P200,000 as "permit to campaign" fee from each of the gubernatorial and congressional candidates here, according to Davao Oriental Gov. Rosalind Lopez, whose son is also seeking a congressional post.

When Lopez also refused to pay the rebels, her son Dingy who is running for councilor in Mati, was allegedly harassed by NPA rebels while campaigning in Barangay Danao early last month. The rebels then took Lopez's mobile phone. ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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No kidding, Joker on Marcos' list

(From page A1)

Loyalists, which is participating in the party-list elections, picked eight candidates from the opposition Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) and five from the administration People Power Coalition (PPC).

It endorsed Joker Arroyo, Ernesto Herrera, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier and Franklin Drilon of the PPC.

From the PnM, it recommended Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Panfilo Lacson, Edgardo Angara, Ricardo Puno and Noli de Castro.

Cherry Cobarrubias, chair of the True Marcos Loyalists, said the group, "in the spirit of reconciliation and national unity," decided to include even those who fought Marcos.

"Since Mrs. (Imelda) Marcos is so forgiving and *matagal na naman yon kaya* (that was a long time ago, so) for the sake of national reconciliation we have decided to support their candidacies," said Cobarrubias.

She claimed her organization has 8.2 million card-bearing members nationwide and 90 percent of them are registered voters. She said the group would print five million sample ballots containing the names of the 13 candidates.

Arroyo, a human rights lawyer, and Herrera, a labor leader, were among prominent oppositionists during the Marcos regime. Enrile and Honasan, on the other hand, were key players in the 1986 People Power revolt that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

The religious group El Shaddai meanwhile disowned sample ballots it purportedly printed and which were being distributed to the public. The "fake" sample ballots contained the names of senatorial candidates supposedly chosen by the group's religious leader, Bro. Mike Velarde, and the El Shaddai-backed party-list group, Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay).

Mel Robles, El Shaddai spokesperson, said the group has not ordered the printing of any sample ballot. He said neither Velarde nor the El Shaddai Council of Elders has endorsed any candidate at this time.

"These are being produced by the candidates themselves," Robles said of the fake sample ballots.

"In fact, I have seen six versions of sample ballots with names of candidates and Buhay," he told the INQUIRER.

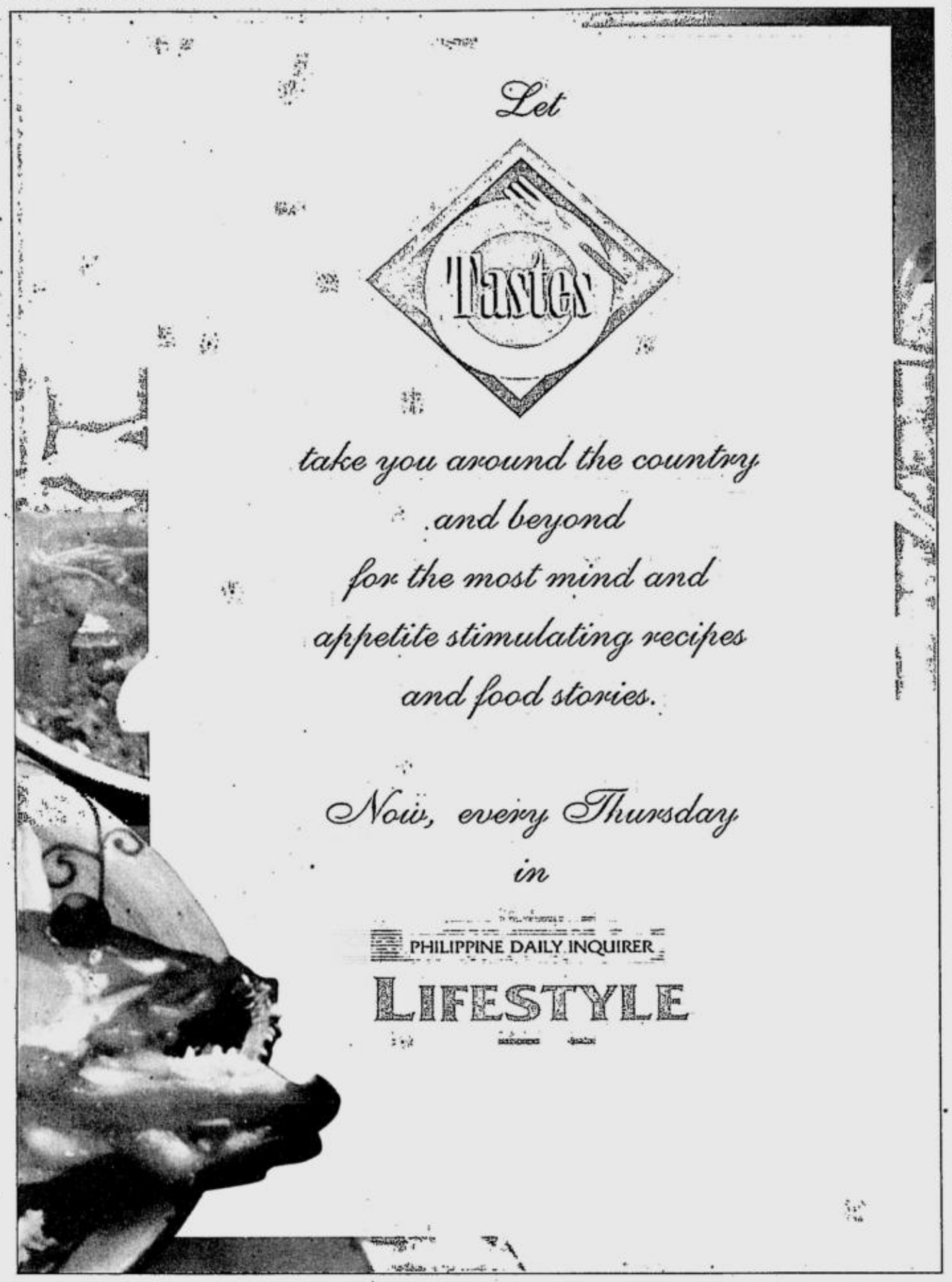
The INQUIRER received on Wednesday night a faxed copy of a sample ballot with the names of 12 candidates and the Buhay party-list group. Written on the sample ballot were the names of Lacson, Ms Estrada, Puno, Honasan, Enrile, Angara, Orlando Mercado, Santiago, Drilon, Wigberto Tañada, Roberto Pagdanganan and Manny Villar.

Roy Señores, chair of the National Labor Relations Commission and an El Shaddai member, said he himself has not received any sample ballot from the religious group.

"That sample ballot could not be from the El Shaddai because it did not have the name of Herrera," Señeres said.

Señeres said Herrera was being supported by the El Shaddai because of his pro-labor advocacies. Most of the five million members of the El Shaddai were workers themselves, he pointed out.

Velarde is scheduled to announce on Saturday night the group's favored senatorial candidates. ***With a report from Marie Carisa Ordinario***



8 Senate bets tangle . . .

(From page A1)

feature senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa, People Power Coalition and independent parties and will highlight the major issues of poverty and the economy, peace and order, education and what to do with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Six of the country's top broadcast journalists and columnists—GMA hosts Che-Che Lazaro, Mike Enriquez and Luchie Cruz-Valdes and INQUIRER columnists Conrado de Quiros, Rina Jimenez-David and Ceres Doyo—will act as panelists who will ask candidates to clarify their views and platforms. There will also be a dialogue between candidates and key officials from major sectoral movements and organizations.

GMA host Che-Che Lazaro expressed confidence in the debate as a good opportunity for the education of voters. She said: "This is exactly what we need for the elections, which should go beyond personalities. It's all about good governance, which depends on concrete programs and the integrity of a person."

While their colleagues chose to join provincial tours, senatorial candidates Winnie Monsod, Serge Osmeña, Obet Pagdanganan, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, Orlando Mercado, Santanina Rasul, Perfecto Yasay and Homobono Adaza took the challenge of debating the issues for the benefit of the voting populace.

"I'm glad that these candidates decided to participate in the debate," said INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. "A debate of this magnitude that enables candidates to present their views intelligently can help the electorate make informed decisions. It also demonstrates the sincerity and willingness of the candidates to defend their platforms."

The Grand Senatorial Debate, which will be simulcast on May 12 from 9 to 12 p.m. over GMA 7, dzBB and all Super Radyo stations nationwide, will give the candidates an opportunity to share their views with more than 95 percent of the country's population.

INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros said the collaboration of the GMA Network and the INQUIRER in the debate is one of its strong selling points. He added, "To appear in a forum sponsored by two immensely credible institutions like the INQUIRER and GMA Network can confer an aura of credibility on the candidates."

Moderated by Mel Tiangco and Oscar Orbos, the event aims to elevate the level of political dialogue from the traditional personality-based contest to an issues-based one, with the end in view of developing a more discerning and well-informed electorate.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 11, 2001
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:26-33

Gospel: Jn 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled; trust in God and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. Otherwise I would not have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. After I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall come again and take you to me, so that where I am, you also may be. Yet you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

Commentary:

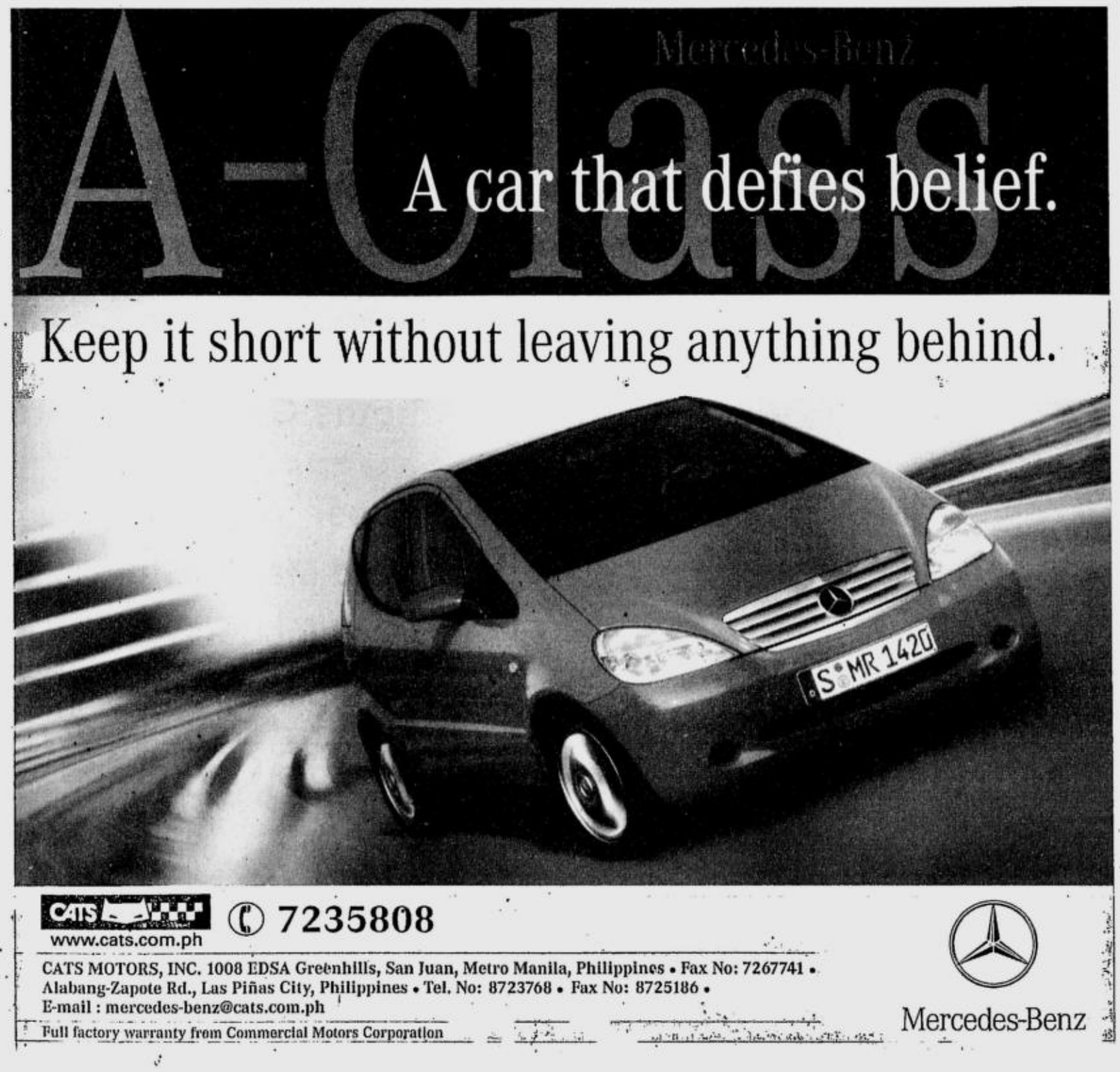
By proclaiming ourselves to be Christians, we claim that Jesus' way of life and mission is also ours. As we have been seeing these past days, we accept him as the one sent from God to lead us back where we all came from. It is, therefore, clear that in God's plan of salvation what is primary is to know the beginning and the end of all. This is a universal concern of all true religions. Thus, the question of Thomas: "Lord, we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?" For us Christians, Jesus the Christ is the way. Not to follow this way is to miss the goal of our lives. But within the context of Asian pluralist religiosity, we ought to see ourselves also as only one group among many treading the way to God, who attracts all to God-Self from the very beginning of time. Does your Christianity have any impact on other religionists?

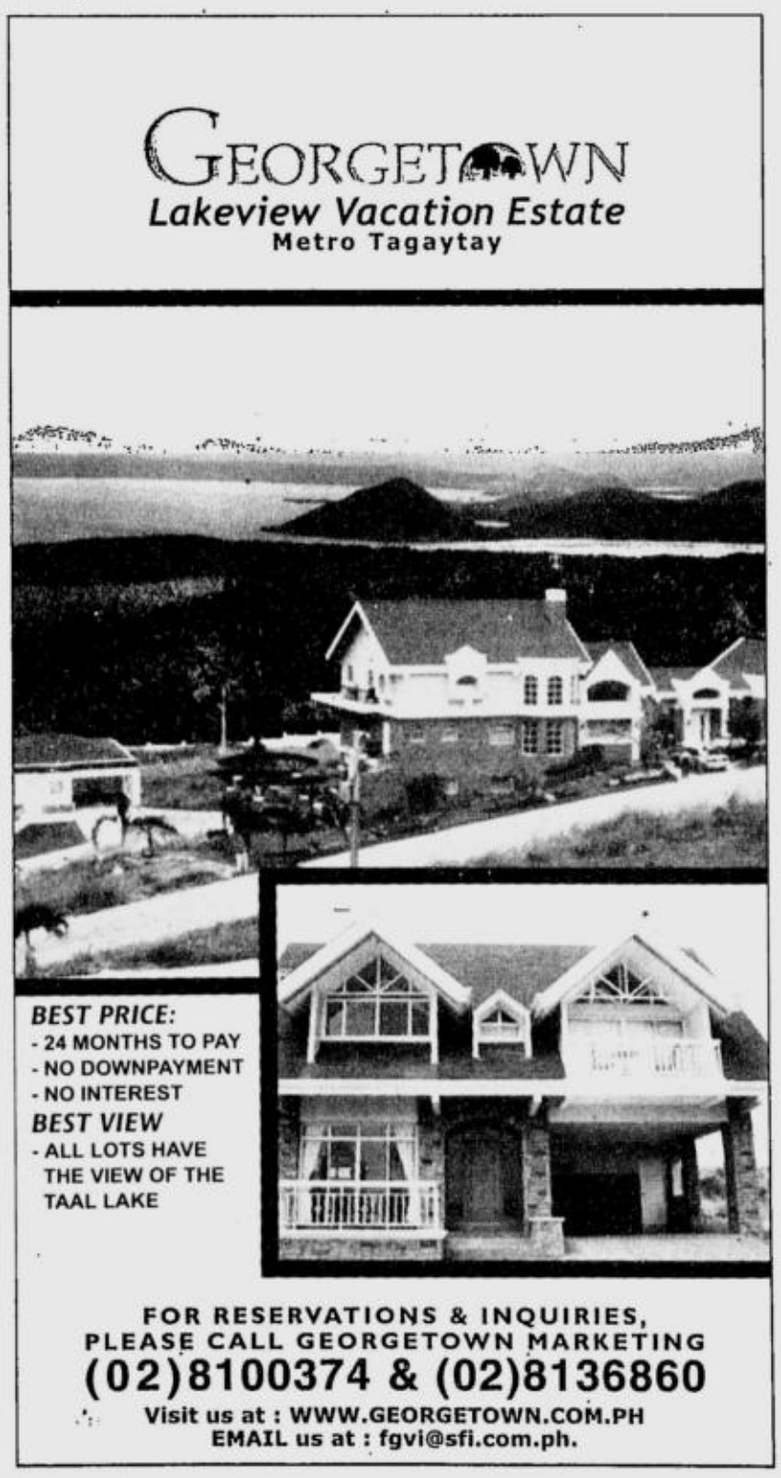
Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

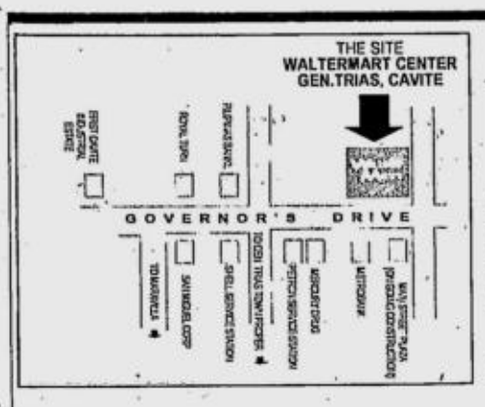
JUDICIAL ETHICS—Clerk of Court—A Clerk of Court is an essential and ranking officer of our judicial system who performs delicate administrative functions vital to the prompt and proper disposition of justice. A Clerk of Court's Office is the nucleus of activities both adjudicative and administrative, performing, among others, the functions of keeping the records and seal, issuing processes, entering judgments and orders and giving, upon request, certified copies from the records. Owing to the delicate position occupied by the Clerks of Court in the judicial system, they are required to be persons of competence, honesty and probity since they are specifically imbued with the mandate of safeguarding the integrity of the court and its proceedings, to earn and preserve respect therefore, to maintain loyalty thereto and to the judge as superior officer, to maintain the authenticity and correctness of court records and to uphold the confidence of the public in the administration of justice. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Domingo v. Morales, A. M. No. P-99-1285, October 4, 2000]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA





ABENSON opens Laguna and Cavite branches



Abenson is definitely on a roll. And with the changing climate as its backdrop, it opened yet another branch, this time in the bustling area of Gen. Trias, Cavite. April 28 will be remembered by the Caviteños as the day their appliance search came to a halt.

Now with a total of 38 branches, Abenson is continuously gaining new grounds as venue for bringing the proverbial good life a breath closer to the Filipino family. No less than the incumbent Cavite Governor Bong Revilla, Jr and fellow movie actor Efren Reyes, Jr. presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

And on May 16, the 39th branch of Abenson will be unveiled at the Olivarez Mall in Biñan, Laguna. Just like in the metropolis and the adjoining provinces, the Cavite and Laguna folks are up for a year-round treat, Abenson style that is. Great discounts, cool premiums, and grand raffle promos are simply icing on the cake, considering the caliber of the items in store—all major brands showcasing the best models.

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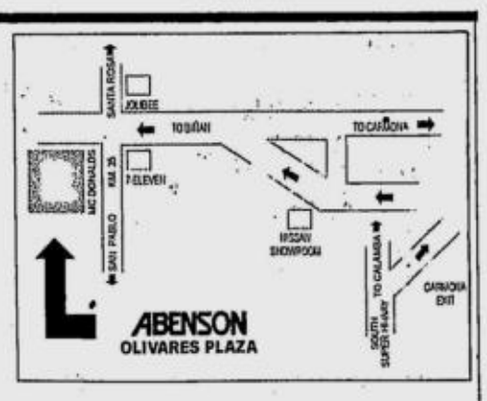

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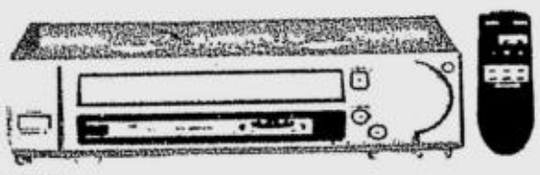

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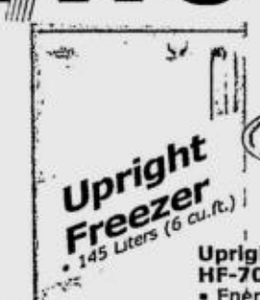

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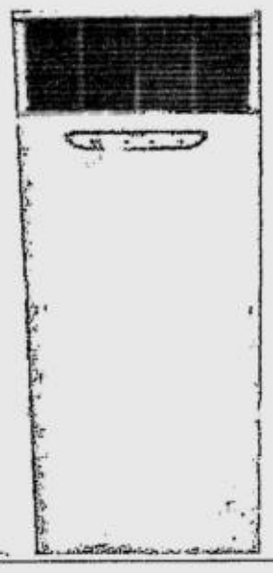

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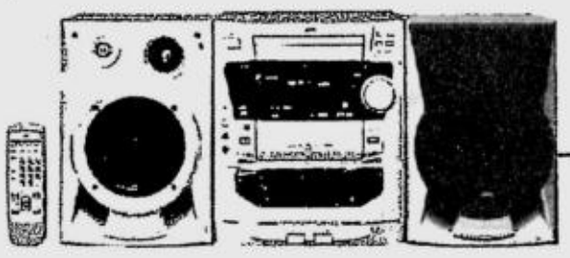

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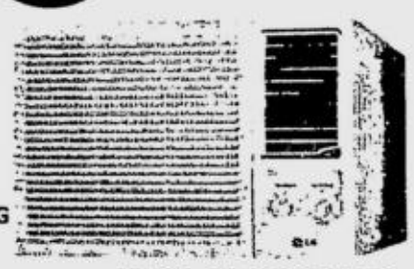

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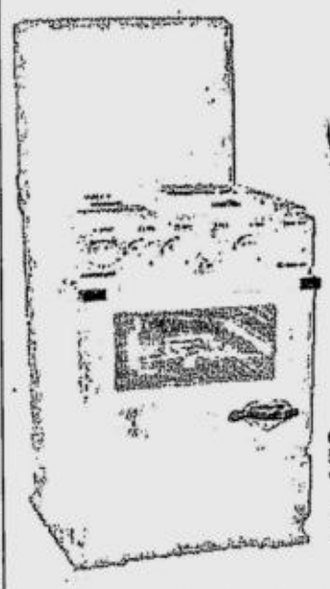

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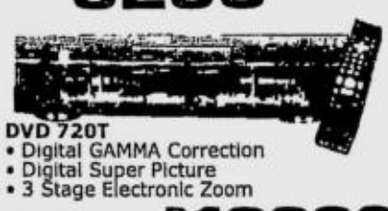

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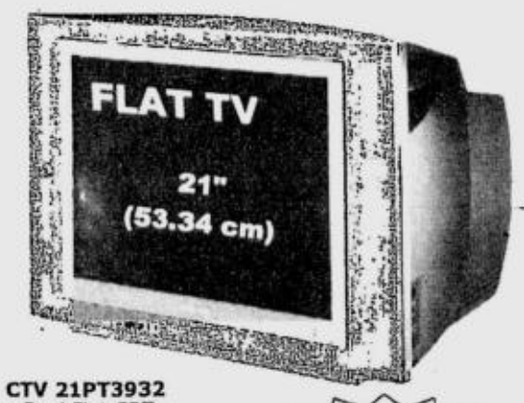

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76 areas listed as hot spots

(From page A1)

The explosive device was apparently planted under the jeep, which contained LP fliers and other campaign material, witnesses said. Police were still trying to determine what type of explosive was used at press time.

Ironically, San Juan is not among the 76 areas identified by the Commission on Elections as hot spots as the May 14 elections draw closer.

The Comelec has placed under its control six provinces, six cities, 57 towns, five barangays and two sitios as the death toll in the run-up to the May 14 balloting rose to 50.

The latest fatalities were four off-duty soldiers working as bodyguards of two rival mayoral candidates in Panamao, Sulu.

The flare-up of violence came as representatives of nine political parties gathered in Malacañang to sign a manifesto for honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

During the two-hour meeting, however, Philippine National Police Deputy Director for Operations Edgardo Aglipay said the major threats to the holding of peaceful elections included not only armed goons, communist guerrillas and Moro rebels but also supporters of ousted leader Joseph Estrada.

Local elections have traditionally been violent, particularly in remote areas afflicted by outlaws and armed followers of politicians.

According to police reports, at least 50 candidates, supporters, bodyguards and Comelec employees have been killed in various election-related violence across the country.

The Associated Press quoted Sulu police chief Senior Supt. Candido Casimiro as saying that mortar salvos and automatic gunfire disrupted the two campaign rallies at Sitio Simbahan, Barangay Pangutaran, Panamao.

Casimiro said two former Moro rebels were wounded in the clashes that started at about 10 a.m. and lasted until early afternoon.

But Col. Jovenal Narciso, spokesperson of a military task force in Sulu, said there was only one fatality—an Abu Sayyaf bandit. Twelve other soldiers, however, were wounded.

Narciso said government troops had been rushed to the village to contain the fighting.

76 areas

To avert further violence, the Comelec passed a resolution on Wednesday evening, placing under its control 76 areas in 12 regions and authorizing the deployment of additional troops in Lanao del Norte, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao.

Comelec Resolution No. 4165 placed under the poll body's control the provinces of Sulu, Basilan, Abra, Catanduanes, Masbate and Occidental Mindoro. Special task forces made up of lawyers and led by the Comelec commissioner assigned to a particular region will take over the administrative affairs of the provincial governments in these areas.

Similar task forces will also be set up in the cities of Dagupan in Pangasinan, Canlaon in Negros Oriental, Maasin in Southern Leyte, Calbayog in Samar, Surigao in Surigao del Norte, and Danao in Cebu.

Also placed under Comelec control were the towns of Currimao in Ilocos Norte; Sta. Lucia in Ilocos Sur; Balaoan in La Union; Natividad, Tayug and Bolinao in Pangasinan; San Pablo in Isabela; Angat and Doña Remedios Trinidad in Bulacan.

Gapan, Jaen, Cabiao, Lupao, Gabaldon, Aliaga and Sto. Domingo in Nueva Ecija; Alcantara in Romblon; Balabac in Palawan; Dolores and Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon; Mabitac in Laguna; Sto. Tomas in Batangas.

Bacon and Matnog in Sorsogon; Sogod, San Remigio, Bogo, Medellin and Daanbantayan in Cebu; Silago, St. Bernard, Sogod, Bontoc and Tomas Oppus in Southern Leyte; Talusan in Zamboanga del Sur; Sirawai in Zamboanga del Norte; Tagoloan in Misamis Oriental.

Kauswagan, Magsaysay, Pantao Ragat, Poona Piagapo, Sapad, Tangkal and Salvador in Lanao del Norte; San Jose, Alegria, Tubod, Mainit, Pilar and Malimuno in Surigao del Norte; Lanuza and Lingig in Surigao del Sur; La Paz and Bayugan in Agusan del Sur; and Buluan, South Upi and Kabuntalan in Maguindanao.

The five barangays placed under Comelec control were Caingin, Tambubong, Capihan, Tukod and Talacsan in San Rafael town, Bulacan. The two sitios were Bangco and Cadayonan in Balo-i, Lanao del Norte.

The Comelec en banc, in the same resolution, also authorized the deployment of additional troops in 16 Mindanao towns—Munai, Tagoloan, and Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte; Columbio and Lambayong in Sultan Kudarat; and Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Pagalungan, Mamasapano, Buldon, Matanog, North Upi Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talitay, Ampatuan and Gen. S.K. Pendatun in Maguindanao.

A number of these towns were involved in heavy fighting between government troops and separatist Moro rebels last year.

The 76 "hot spots" have a track record of violence in previous elections, intense political rivalry, and heavy presence of armed groups.

The Comelec task forces in these areas can substitute an entire police force with a military unit, revoke exemptions to the gun ban granted to candidates and their bodyguards, and augment peacekeeping forces with policemen and military troops.

Other threats

At the two-hour command conference presided by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, Aglipay said the PNP was anticipating pro-Estrada forces would try to disrupt the May 14 elections.

"A paramount security concern is the threat posed by angry supporters and allies of former President Joseph Estrada," Aglipay said.

He pointed out that the Labor Day riots outside Malacañang was "an indication of the range of capabilities and resources available to this group."

"It will be to the advantage of the political opposition that the election does not push through," Aglipay said as he outlined the PNP's preparations for the elections on Monday.

Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, who represented the opposition Puwersa ng Masa-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino coalition, was seen wiping his forehead as Aglipay made the assessment.

"That is only their imagination. We are a threat to them politically because they know more people are supporting Puwersa ng Masa today," Aquino told reporters after the conference.

"The PNP is just being overly cautious. They just want to make sure no trouble happens on Monday. If there will be any trouble, it won't be started by us," he said.

In a press statement, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan also belied government intelligence reports that he and other alleged coup plotters were planning to launch bombings in malls, airports and other crowded places.

"Such unfounded and irresponsible reports only cause fear and anxiety among the people," Honasan said.

Covenant

Aglipay's report notwithstanding, Aquino and the representatives of eight other political parties went ahead with the signing of the "Manifesto for HOPE," the acronym for honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

The others who signed the accord were former Speaker Jose de Venecia of the administration Lakas-NUCD; Frisco San Juan of the Nationalist People's Coalition; Jimmy Galvez-Tan and Ever Makatulad of Aksyon Demokratiko; Jose Marie Gerochi of Reporma; Eleazar Quinto of the Liberal Party; former Vice President Salvador Laurel of the Nacionalista Party; Winston Garcia of Promdi; Joel Allones of Partido ng Masang Pilipino; and Efren Villaseñor of the Partido Demokratikong Sosyalista ng Pilipinas.

Through the manifesto, the political parties pledged to rise above selfish, partisan interests; protect results to reflect the true will of the people; reject the use of violence, intimidation, fraud, manipulation, vote-buying and other pernicious practices; and uphold the stability, credibility and integrity of the democratic institutions.

The manifesto was presented to the President in the presence of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and other officials.

In her speech, the President said the May 14 elections should be "an instrument of healing" after "the sad Labor Day" siege of Malacañang.

More coup financiers on AFP list

(From page A1)

associated with ousted President Joseph Estrada and former police chief Panfilo Lacson to the power grab.

The three-page intelligence report said businessman Mark Jimenez and at least 18 Chinese-Filipino businessmen contributed a total of P1 billion for the massive five-day rally of Estrada's supporters at Edsa which culminated in the attack on Malacañang on May 1.

Half of the money was reportedly stashed as a reserve fund.

Director General Leandro Mendoza said that the report "Funding Structures and Mechanism for the May 1 Rebellion" was raw and should not have been leaked to the media.

But he has ordered three PNP intelligence units to validate the "raw information."

Mendoza yesterday said in Davao City that the police would continue to gather evidence and to identify more people suspected of financing the Labor Day power grab attempt.

A "special report" on financiers behind the bid to topple Ms Macapagal would be submitted to Malacañang soon, according to Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, police intelligence chief.

Berroya reiterated that the report was still "raw information" and the copy obtained by the press did not come from his agency although he conceded that it included the names of "some personalities who . . . are part of those we are monitoring."

The military intelligence official declined to confirm if the military's list contained the names in the police intelligence report.

"We don't want to be unfair to those on the list since we are still in the process of verifying and gathering strong evidence," the official said.

Dirty money

He said the "dirty money" that financed the failed power grab attempt was more than the P1 billion that the two ranking police intelligence officers had earlier estimated.

"The amount raised reached billions and the funds were dirty money," the official, who asked not to be named, said.

Dirty money refers to proceeds from illegal and criminal activities like smuggling, gambling and drug trafficking.

At the height of the anti-government rally at Edsa, there were persistent talks that huge sums of money were offered to military officers and men so that they would turn against the Macapagal administration.

Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, commander of the anti-coup Task Force Libra, virtually confirmed this when he noted that the biggest mistake committed by the power grabbers was to entertain the idea that the military was for sale.

Lacson, along with Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Army Brig. Gen. Marcelino Malajacan, was tagged as the principal player in the effort to raise an armed component in the power grab plan.

The three, who are all members of Class 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy, have gone into hiding.

The military intelligence official said that the government "cannot afford to relax its guard as long as these three personalities are still out there."

He said the government was still expecting that acts of destabilization would be committed to derail the May 14 elections.

The official said "augmentation forces" had been re-deployed in Malacañang.

"*Gumagapang pa sila* (They're still recruiting)," the official said, referring to Lacson, Honasan and Malajacan.

Backlash

Ang See said the Chinese-Filipino community remained confident that Ms Macapagal and her "more intelligent officers" would be able to separate fact from fiction.

The VACC spokesperson said that some of her Chinese-Filipino peers believed that the opposition might have leaked the report as part of their propaganda that the Macapagal administration was anti-Chinese.

Ang See claimed that Chinese-Filipinos were traditionally fence-sitters.

"Even when their own lives were at stake and they were targeted by kidnappers like sitting ducks, they did not dare make any move that is political. How much more in things like Edsa III?" she said.

She said the Chinese-Filipino businessmen tagged in the report were "shrewd" and not the kind who would gamble on a losing proposition.

One of the businessmen named as a financier of the coup plot was the owner of the Pegasus nightclub in Quezon City.

Pegasus dismissed the allegation that its owner funded the violent uprising of May 1, 2001 as "totally false and malicious."

"The erroneous imputation that Jolly Ting, misspelled Jolly Tieng, is co-owner of Lexus is also false since he does not have any interest in the said establishment," Pegasus owner Ting said in a statement.

"Neither does David Tan not own any share or interest in Pegasus," Ting said.

Seaoil Philippines Corp. also denied that its owner had contributed money to the rebellion.

"Mr. Yu of Seaoil Petroleum Corp. did not fund the coup attempt for P25 million and is not and will never be involved in the oil smuggling business," Yvonne Arcenas, Seaoil advertising officer, said in a statement.

Seaoil was reacting to the police report that a certain Mr. Yu, owner of Sea Oil Resources, contributed to the coup attempt and that he was engaged in smuggling.

"The only thing that you got correct is that Mr. Yu is the owner of Seaoil but there is no such corporation with the name Seaoil Resources. Mr. Yu is the owner of Seaoil but there is no such corporation and Seaoil Philippines Inc.," Arcenas said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

For its part, Steniel Manufacturing Corp. said it was not in any way connected with Henry Lim or Steniel Paper Corp., which the police report identified as the businessman who led the fund-raising in Manila for the coup plot. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Maceda, JPE deny . . .

(From page A1)

eve of the May 1 attack on Malacañang to discuss ways to defuse the volatile situation.

But Interior Secretary Joey Lina stood by the President's statements, saying he was present when the opposition's emissaries talked about the proposal.

He said the emissaries belonged to the military. But he declined to elaborate, saying he did not have the authority to divulge their names.

"That's correct, what she said was true because the opposition really did send emissaries at the time to talk about power-sharing but we refused," Lina told Cebu City-based radio station dyLA, speaking in Taglish.

But in Maceda's version of the events preceding the march on the Palace, Malacañang sent a message to Estrada through Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, saying that Ms Macapagal wanted to meet the jailed ex-President to discuss ways to prevent Edsa III from turning violent.

According to Maceda, President Macapagal had spoken with Estrada ally Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, asking how to address the agitated pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine.

Maceda added that certain Cabinet officials contacted former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to find ways to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Enrile also disputed the President's claim that he, Maceda, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and opposition campaign manager Adelbert Antonino sent emissaries to Ms Macapagal before dawn on April 30 to negotiate a power-sharing deal.

Enrile: Never

"How can I be blamed for any discussion of power sharing? Power sharing with whom? We never discussed power sharing," Enrile told reporters in Cebu City.

He confirmed, however, that he was a member of a three-man panel formed by Estrada for the sole purpose of negotiating "for any resolution of the problem involving the Edsa Shrine rally."

The other members were Maceda and Puwersa ng Masa spokesperson Antonino, he said.

According to Enrile's version of events, the three met at the detention room of the deposed President at the Veterans Memorial Hospital with former first lady Loi Ejercito and Cardinal Vidal.

Vidal's presence at the meeting was coincidental because the Cebu prelate had gone to see Estrada mainly to ask whether he would agree to a meeting with Ms Macapagal to visit him, Enrile said.

"During Vidal's visit, Erap told his visitors to deal with that (the pro-Estrada rally). There is no such truth or any discussion or any idea or any word regarding power sharing (sic)," he said.

He said the three of them were even waiting for a call from Malacañang "or from any of the people supposed to be designated by (Ms Macapagal) to discuss the problem at Edsa."

But didn't he say. . .

But his recollection of events differed from an earlier account he gave reporters in a noontime press conference at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, on May 1.

At the time, Enrile admitted that on the eve of the Malacañang siege, he and three other opposition leaders had been negotiating with the President's representatives.

He identified the other members of the "negotiating panel designated by Estrada" as fellow reelectionist Senator Honasan, Maceda and Antonino.

"My understanding was (Ms Macapagal) was asking to meet with Erap . . . I don't know if it took place," he said then.

At the same press conference, Honasan said "nothing substantial" came out of the talks, which he said were aimed at arranging a meeting between Ms Macapagal and Estrada.

Enrile and Honasan claimed they did not present any "demands" to the government. They said they only wanted to set up "future talks."

Maceda: No knowledge

Yesterday, Maceda said in a radio interview: "As far as I'm concerned, I don't know of such attempt (to propose a power-sharing agreement)."

He said Ms Macapagal talked "about emissaries but I guess the President should reveal who (they are), where the meeting took place and what are the details of the so-called power-sharing."

"Even (if) some emissaries offered that scheme, perhaps they were just exploring the options that could be discussed to defuse the situation at that time," Maceda told dyLA.

Maceda questioned the timing of the President's disclosure, saying it was meant to discredit the opposition candidates.

"It was purely to gain political mileage so the people would be angry at our candidates (*para magalit ang tao sa mga kandidato namin*)," he said.

Reyes phoned first?

During the May 1 news conference, a reporter asked Enrile about Ms Macapagal's claim that she received a phone call that morning, shortly after Estrada's supporters marched to Malacañang.

"No, actually I was in the room when Greg (Honasan) received a call. It think it was (then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo) Reyes, (calling) about a possible meeting with the panel created by Erap to talk to us," Enrile answered.

Enrile said Honasan, a cashiered Army colonel who led several failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration, was the group's liaison with Reyes.

Honasan owned up to being part of the so-called negotiations only following Enrile's disclosure.

Enrile said the government panel, supposedly composed of Reyes, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Interior Secretary Joey Lina, did not show up.

Ms Macapagal said the other day that the government had no such panel.

Call from Erap

Enrile also told reporters on May 1 that Estrada had called him up from the Veterans hospital before dawn.

He said the arrested former president informed him that he was being transferred to the detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and that Enrile, in turn, told Estrada to "take care of yourself."

Enrile claimed they did not discuss the ongoing march to Malacañang. He said he did not know if Estrada knew what was going on.

But Estrada apparently not only knew about the march, but was even watching the news coverage on TV in his room at the Veterans hospital before dawn May 1, according to opposition senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal.

Erap guards stricter after PDI interview

(From page A1)

on a list approved by the police when the arrested former President was still detained in Camp Crame.

The list reportedly includes 65 family members, political allies and show biz pals, including Estrada's best friend, action star Fernando Poe Jr. It also includes his defense team of 12 lawyers.

"The (former) President was of course very upset *dahil napasama pa dahil sa* (because of the trouble caused by the) interview," the source added.

The first week after Estrada and co-accused son Jinggoy were transferred to the maximum-security facility on May 1, visiting restrictions were relaxed.

Many of Estrada's friends who were not on the police list were permitted to visit him, provided that the jailed ex-President himself personally approved the visits.

But the rules were no longer as flexible after Estrada gave the INQUIRER the first face-to-face interview he has had since his arrest.

3 checkpoints

When INQUIRER reporter Volt Contreras went to the center on May 6, visitors to Estrada's bungalow-style holding center had to pass through three checkpoints.

The first was at the gate, where IDs were surrendered and visitors were asked about their relation to the Estradas and the purpose of their visit.

A few meters away, another set of guards conducted a very thorough—and at times embarrassing—body search.

Here, visitors were required to leave electronic communication devices like cell phones and pagers, as well as cameras.

A third checkpoint, situated just outside the perimeter fence surrounding the actual holding center, was installed with a metal detector.

Here, after being subjected to another body search, visitors were asked to remove their wrist watches and jewelry, even wedding rings. The items would be returned to them after they passed through the metal detector.

The INQUIRER also reported that former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito had complained about being frisked thoroughly by combat-ready officers.

She said members of her family, like her daughter Jackie, also had to suffer such "indignities."

GMA: Not in my hands

Estrada's lawyers have asked the Sandiganbayan to place the ousted President under house arrest.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo visited her predecessor on May 3, she declined to grant his request to be moved to his home in North Greenhills in San Juan, saying the authority to order the move lay not with her but with the Sandiganbayan.

Yesterday, the President reiterated her position when LDP-Puwersa ng Masa campaign manager Rep. Butz Aquino brought up the same request.

"Now, to really ease the tension, I believe as the President, you can encourage the return of the (former) President to his home at this time," Aquino told Ms Macapagal when they met at a command conference at the Palace.

"That's not in my hands, Butz. That's in the hands of the Sandiganbayan," the President answered.

"We know you're very influential," Aquino persisted.

"With the Sandiganbayan? I could not even influence the Comelec (to hold) special registration (for new voters)," Ms Macapagal responded.

Dangerous

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza told reporters in Davao City that putting Estrada under house arrest would be "dangerous" to his life since the police could not properly secure his house in the private subdivision of North Greenhills.

Mendoza said securing No. 1 Polk St. would be difficult since the police would not have total control over the flow of residents and visitors entering and leaving the village.

"The problem with house arrest is control. Because it's a private subdivision, anybody can just get in. We can't secure the gates because the homeowners will complain," Mendoza told reporters at the PNP regional headquarters in Davao.

The possibility of Estrada's loyal supporters massing again outside his home poses another problem that police consider "too difficult to handle," he said.

He said even Estrada's lawyers and former Cabinet officials had complained of problems getting in and out of Estrada's house because of the crowd that once tried to protect him from being arrested.

"This is the scenario we see . . . we'll be constantly holding dispersal operations just to allow someone to get in or get out," he said.

But like the President, Mendoza said the matter was up to the Sandiganbayan to decide. "I will follow (whatever the court decides). We are going to follow and we are going to provide the necessary security measures," he said.

Was 'state of rebellion' necessary?

(From page A1)

lion, only to find out later that the information was wrong.

The senator, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, mentioned the publication of a Philippine National Police report, which identified the alleged financiers of the failed rebellion.

Biazon said the report, although declared "raw" by the PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza, appeared to have been prepared to further justify the declaration of the state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

The report could be no different from President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration on May 1 that two policemen died in the attack on the Palace by thousands of supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

It turned out that one of the policemen survived the attack. The other was killed not during the riots but during a police operation against drug pushers in Quiapo, Manila.

Biazon said that if the evidence on the death of that policeman was manufactured, the intelligence report on the alleged financiers of the power grab could have also been passed off as the truth.

"This could indicate the willingness of some people who would like to back up their claims of a rebellion with manufactured evidence," he said.

Estrada letter

Like Biazon, Estrada said in a letter read in Tagbilaran City that "it was made to appear that policemen were killed while there was no mention about those wounded and hurt among our people who joined the protest."

The letter, which Estrada wrote in his cell in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was read by former first lady Loi Estrada to a crowd of about 3,000 that attended the Puwersa ng Masa rally yesterday morning in the city. The former first lady is a senatorial candidate.

Estrada claimed that infiltrators were used to sow trouble that led to the violent dispersal of protesters who were ready to storm Malacañang on May 1.

The letter dated May 9 was addressed to "the Filipino people," a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

"The protest of our countrymen who voluntarily went to Edsa to express their grievances and proceeded to Malacañang was violently dispersed. Infiltrators were used to create trouble and this has been admitted by the PNP chief himself," Estrada said in Filipino.

He also said the charges against opposition senatorial candidates like Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan as well as PnM campaign manager Ernesto Maceda were intended to prevent them from campaigning.

INC denial

In Manila, the Iglesia ni Cristo has denied a report that its deputy executive minister Eduardo V. Manalo had met with opposition leaders to topple the Macapagal administration during the Edsa III rallies.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez also denied that authorities had identified Manalo, son of INC head and executive minister Eraño G. Manalo, as among those who met with opposition leaders to overthrow the government.

"Reports linking Eddie Manalo, son of Bishop Eraño Manalo, to those who plot to overthrow the government are untrue," Perez said in a statement dated May 7, referring to the "Analysis" of INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila that appeared in the INQUIRER that day.

INC spokesperson Bienvenido Santiago described as false and malicious Doronila's report that Manalo had attended an alleged meeting in a hotel that plotted against the government.

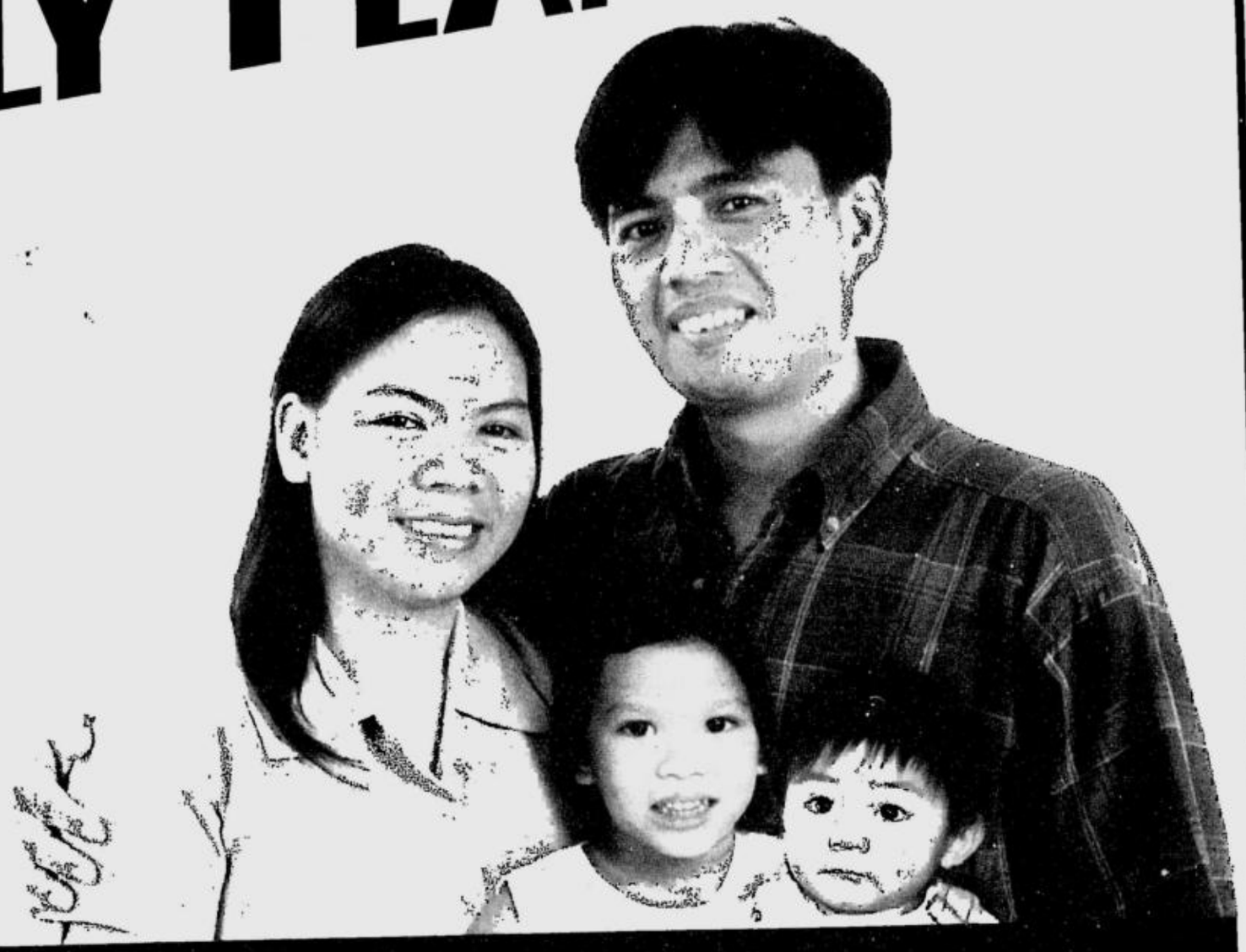
Doronila's article, which appeared in the front page of the INQUIRER on May 7, claimed that authorities had "identified the hotel rooms and suites in which Enrile, Honasan, Jamby Madrigal, Panfilo Lacson, Maceda and Eddie Manalo" met "during the three days of the rallies."

"We denounce this irresponsible journalism as malicious. In his 'Analysis,' Doronila made an unwarranted conclusion since he failed to verify the information he had received. Despite insufficient information, he recklessly wrote his column with the obvious intention of maligning the Iglesia ni Cristo," Santiago said.

"The members who went to the rally on their own volition withdrew on the day before the assault. The withdrawal of the INC members on that day before the assault clearly showed that the INC absolutely did not have participation in the so-called meeting," Santiago said.

Nagsalita na ang taumbayan

Mahalaga sa amin ang FAMILY PLANNING!



*Sa isang nationwide survey**

94% ang naniniwalang mahalaga ang Family Planning

76% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa Family Planning

69% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa malayang pagpili ng mga paraang Family Planning

74% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa pambansang budget para sa Family Planning

80% ang susuporta sa kandidatong pabor sa mga programang pangkalusugan ng mga kababaihan

*Pulse Asia, Inc., 2-15 Dec. 2000

Suportahan ang Family Planning Program ng Bayan!

Isang public service message ng Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, Inc. (PNGOC)

Iverson stars as 76ers stop Raptors

'The Answer'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DO you still whine for a Michael Jordan comeback?

Think again, fellas.

The guy's too old for the game. This is not golf, a sport that makes men better as they grow older. Jack Nicklaus was 46 when he won his sixth Masters in 1986. Frankie Miñoza, 41, won a big event in Japan last week.

But basketball?

Forget it. This is a game where you get bumped really hard that no amount of Salonpas bands can ease the body pain at the end of every game.

Jordan is history. He was almost 36 when he retired in 1998. We'll just be dragging an archive if we insist on having Jordan wear his No. 23 jersey again in the next NBA season.

Visualize the sight when Jordan's not prevailed upon to cut the crap of a comeback. Kobe Bryant will run rings around him and will end up like the fool on the hill as Paul McCartney crooned it. Vince Carter will slam one dunk after another in Jordan's face that he'll be rechristened from His Airness to His Illness—Jordan's illness being that he couldn't soar anymore because the pull of gravity increases as you age; Jordan's almost 40.

And that's only Bryant and Carter that I've cited here.

Include Allen Iverson and what have we got?

A Jordan looking like an inhabitant of the home for the aged, knees wobbly and all. As has been my thesis in sports, the knees always go first; the mind comes in next.

Allen "The Answer" Iverson broke NBA records yesterday as he almost single-handedly carried Philadelphia to a 97-92 victory over Toronto; the win allowed the Sixers to equal the series to 1-1.

Except for the gravity-defying maneuvers only a Jordan could dish out, Iverson did almost everything yesterday. To say that he outdid himself is an understatement. He was firing shots so precise even in the tightest of situations that you wondered if he had smuggled a chip or something into the ball designed to seek metal like a guided missile.

He was simply unbelievable yesterday.

With his 54 yesterday, Iverson broke the 50-playoff points record for Philadelphia achieved by Sixer Billy Cunningham in 1970.

Of the Sixers' last 20 points of yesterday's game, Iverson fired the first 19 of those, allowing his team to overhaul a 14-point deficit.

I haven't seen Jordan score 19 straight points in a playoff. Or Magic Johnson, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Larry Bird and Billy Russell for that matter.

So what have we got here, fellas?

A player worth our while.

Let Jordan stay in the back burner while we hope that Iverson and the Sixers proceed to challenge, hopefully, Kobe Bryant and the Lakers for the NBA crown. Isn't that a titillating prospect?

And yes, aren't we also going to enjoy the match-up between Sixer Dikembe Mutombo and Laker Shaquille O'Neal at the boards once a Sixer-Laker title series materializes?

Let's leave Jordan alone now. His place in history has always been that secure.

Meanwhile, don't just let the door ajar for Iverson. Open it wide as the NBA has found the answer to solve its waning popularity.

At least for now, fellas.

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored 19 of his career playoff-high 54 points in the fourth quarter as the Philadelphia 76ers evened their second-round series at 1-1 with a 97-92 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals is Friday night (Saturday in Manila) in Toronto.

Iverson, who had 36 points on 11-of-34 shooting in the opener, scored 19 of Philadelphia's final 20 points Wednesday.

Vince Carter had 28 points and Antonio Davis added 19 for the Raptors.

With the Sixers leading 89-86, Iverson hit a running jumper, got fouled and completed the three-point play, giving the Sixers a 92-86 lead with 1:16 left.

After Charles Oakley nailed a 3-pointer, Iverson drilled a 5.4-meter (18-foot) shot to make it 94-89. Following a miss by the Raptors, Iverson got fouled, cupped his ear, implored the crowd to make more noise and screamed toward the sky. He made both free throws before George Lynch scored the Sixers' last point on a free throw.

Tim Duncan had 18 points and 14 rebounds and San Antonio opened the second half with a decisive 21-6 run to win, 104-90, and take a 3-0 lead over Dallas in the best-of-seven second-round series.

David Robinson had 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Sean Elliott scored 17 for San Antonio, which will try to finish off the Western Conference semifinal sweep Saturday.

Dallas missed eight of its first nine shots and shot 34.7 percent in the game. The Mavs also tied their franchise playoff low of 11 points in a quarter, the third; they set that record in Game 1.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 15 points on 5-of-15 shooting despite playing only 29 minutes and missing a morning shoot-around with an upset stomach.

Juwan Howard had 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Greg Buckner added 14 points and 12 rebounds in a reserve role for the Mavs. *AP*

IVERSON (with ball) drives for the basket. AP

Regent shocks UP-Waterfront

REGENT Cheeseballs pulled off a 63-55 shocker over favorite University of the Philippines-Waterfront Hotels yesterday for its second straight win in the 1st Crystal Spring PYBL Title Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

UP-Waterfront slipped to 2-1.

It was a one-sided affair for the Cheeseballs, who took the half, 36-24, and led by as many as 24 points, 60-36, on Jhembel Gican's three-point shot, 7:17 left in the game.

San Beda wins

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports)*
10 a.m.—San Beda B vs UP (Srs.)
11:30 a.m.—PCU Dasma vs SSC (Srs.)
1 p.m.—Adamson vs UE (Srs.)
2:30 p.m.—FEU vs Letran (Srs.)
5 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Ateneo (Srs.)

SAN BEDA'S fighting Red Lions nipped Philippine Christian University (Taft), 70-68, Wednesday to make it two in a row in Group B of the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament at the PCU gym.

Osaka prevails

CEBU CITY—Osaka Iridology bucked a jittery start as it unleahsed its most potent weapon—outside shooting—to snap Chariot Econo Cab's five game winning streak, 79-69, yesterday in the first Ohm CBL-Micaa Summer Showdown at the Sibong Sports Complex here. The win installed Osaka on top of the CBL group with a 4-2 card.

GIV turns back Ateneo-Pioneer, 74-73

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs PharmaQuick
4 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Ana Freezer

BY DENNIS U. EROA

MARLON Legaspi's defensive gem and a three-point play by Egay Billones powered GIV Beauty Soap to a thrilling 74-73 victory over hard-fighting Ateneo-Pioneer last night in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The 5-foot-11 Billones put GIV in the driver's seat with a three-point play, 72-71, while the 6-foot-5 Legaspi blocked Wesley Gonzalez's daredevil drive in the dying minutes to set up the Soap Masters' blistering finish.

With its fifth win in eight outings, coach Nat Canson's charges formally joined unbeaten Shark Energy Drink (8-0) and Ana Freezer (6-1) to the elite Group A of the quarterfinals.

Defending champion Welcoat Paints and PharmaQuick, both sporting 4-3 cards, will fight for the fourth and final Group A slot.

Ateneo-Pioneer still had the chance to turn the game around, but reliever Domino Peña bottled up slotman Enrico Villanueva, leaving Gonzalez to make the do-or-die shot, 12 seconds left.

Gonzalez's shot from eight feet was short and the whole GIV bench jumped in delight, knowing the importance of the win.

Pointguard Edrick Ferrer and Rainier Sison starred as the Insurers took a huge, 31-16 lead.

Edwin Bacani finished with 21 points, while Billones had 14. But the night belonged to Legaspi, who swatted away seven shots, on top of eight points and seven rebounds.

Scores:

GIV BEAUTY SOAP 74—Bacani 21, Billones 14, De la Cuesta 10, Gumatay 9, Legaspi 8, Kalaw 5, Sanz 4, Calo 3, Peña 0.

ATENEO-PIONEER 73—Ferrer 17, Villanueva 15, Sison 14, Alvarez 12, Gonzalez 11, Tan Chi 3, Bugia 0.

Quarters: 16-28, 40-41, 53-57, 74-73

PHILIPS

X rage Xtreme shots photo contest

Rage to the Extreme!

Philips and Agfa Film bring you the most extreme photo op of the year, EXTREME SHOTS! Win cool prizes by capturing breath-taking moments in the Philips X-Rage tournament on film!

Here's how to join:

Contest rules:

1. The contest is open to all press photographers and hobbyists. The contest subject is the Philips X-Rage tournament which is held from May 18-20 at The Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City. Registration will be held during the three-day event.
2. The contest has two (2) categories, each with corresponding prizes:

Category A	Published photos*
1st Prize	Philips 21" Real Flat Color TV Polaroid camera
2nd Prize	Philips Mini HiFi System with VCD Player Polaroid camera
3rd Prize	Philips VHS Player and Recorder Polaroid camera

*Photos should be published in a newspaper or magazine on or before June 20, 2001

Category B	Unpublished photos
1st Prize	Philips "Woox" Mini HiFi System Polaroid camera
2nd Prize	Philips Super VCD Player Polaroid camera
3rd Prize	Philips "Dynamax" Radio Cassette Recorder with CD Player Polaroid camera

3. Participants can send in as many entries as they want. In the event that a participant wins more than one prize, he/she shall receive the bigger prize.
4. Agfa color films, of any size and speed, may be used in all entries. Entries should be in 8R (8"x10") prints.
5. All entries must be submitted on or before June 30, 2001 to:

   Fuentes Publicity Network, Inc.
   United 6-D Cypress Gardens Condominium
   112 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
   Tel No.: 893-9355/816-3109/892-6184
   Fax: 812-4797
   Look for Grace or Jay

6. Photos will be judged according to relevance (40%), composition/balance/creativity (25%) and visual impact (30%).
7. Winners in the Published Photos category are required to submit clippings of the published entry and ten (10) 5R print copies of their winning entries before they can claim their prizes. Winning entries in the Unpublished Photos category are automatically the property of Philips Consumer Electronics.
8. Philips Consumer Electronics reserves the right to use the winning entries in its publicity and advertising campaigns.

AGFA

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

Pasay derby tonight

IT'S all systems go for the much-awaited special 4-cock derby tonight at Pasay City Cockpit as more than 30 Metro Manila cockers and breeders collide in one grand showdown.

With more than 60 exciting fights, the event, hosted by businessman Ben Chan of Taguig, will definitely start at 7 p.m. At stake is P300,000.

Submission of weights (1.8 kgs. To 2.4 kgs.) is also on tap today and participants may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for details.

Hackfights are also held at Pasay Cockpit every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday where an average of 65 fights are held per day.

Meanwhile, PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that the PCC Anniversary 5-Cock Derby has been set for July 19 and July 21.

Subic triathlon June 3

INTERNATIONAL Triathlon Union (ITU) President Les McDonald sanctioned yesterday the 8th Subic Bay International Triathlon (Subit) event, organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) in cooperation with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). The Subit is set for June 3 at the Subic Bay Freeport.

With the sanction, the Subit is officially one of the ITU's international events where ranking points can be earned by world class triathletes. The country's premiere triathlon event is also a major component of the 2001 Asia Cup series.

The event is sponsored by Speedo, Ohm, PSC, Viva Mineral Water, Hotel La Corona and the POC Sports For All Commission. Cash prizes totaling P300,000 are stake.

Abadia advances in Mandaue netfest

TOP seed Adelo Abadia outplayed Antonio Sagansay, 6-0, 6-3, yesterday to enter the men's singles semifinals of the P100,000 Mandaue City open at the Mantads court.

Abadia will play seventh seed Nino Salvador, who eliminated third pick Michael Mora III, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

In other matches, second seed Rolando Ruel Jr. defeated sixth seed Jesus Lapore, 6-0, 6-3, while fourth seed Pio Tolentino rallied past No. 8 Pierre Fernandez, 7-6, (5), 5-7, 6-2.

In the doubles division, Tolentino and Lapore downed Greg Mosqueda and Sagansay, 6-0, 6-3, to arrange a semifinals showdown with Mike Sanches and Adonis Lominoque, who won by default over Abadia and Ruel.

Also gaining semifinal slots were Robert Kraut and Mora, who beat Pop Sabandon and Fernandez, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4, and Fitzgerald Tabura and Cliff Acuso, who conquered Gilbert Estrada and Joval Divinagracia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

SPORTSWATCH

De Castro whips Ledesma

SECOND seed Ivy de Castro whipped Czarina Ledesma, 6-0, 6-0, and No. 3 Sherry Rose Ong downed Vanessa Gutierrez, 6-3, 6-2, yesterday to reach the girls' 16-under semifinals of the Enervon Cup Age Group Tennis Championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. In the girls' 14-under class, No. 2 Michelle Bumgarner defeated Regine Monsod, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 to arrange a semifinal duel with Anna Buenviaje, who won by default over No. 3 Denise Culaba. Other winners were Catherine Flores and Grace Solatre. In the boys competition, Elbert Anasta downed Dino Ferrari, 6-3, 6-3, and Michael Tenoria beat Arnel dela Cruz, 6-2, 6-2 to enter the 21-under semifinals in the Philta-sanctioned tournament organized by the Junior Tennis Association of the Philippines (Juntaphil).

Rapelling event tomorrow

UNILIVER Philippines said yesterday that the second leg of its "1st Lipton Rappelling Open" will be held tomorrow at the Munting Buhangin Beach Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas. The events are part of the ongoing "Lipton Summer Beach Wave," which aims to promote non-traditional sports activities among the youth. Unilever Philippines senior brand manager for Lipton Noel Cortez is encouraging everyone to participate in this weekend's event where a 20-foot man-made vertical platform called the "Lipton Wall" will be constructed along the beach area for the rappelling and wall-climbing activities. The rappelling exercises will be spearheaded by trainers from the High Attitude Games and Sportswear.

Bulacan hosts 'Power of 3'

THE JOLLIBEE Power of 3 North Luzon Basketball Challenge enters another exciting and action-packed weekend as Bulacan and Pampanga host the Area Championship. The province of Bulacan boasts of having the biggest number of contingent in the championship with 20 teams participating in the juniors and kids division representing 10 Jollibee outlets. Pampanga will have 12 teams in the two divisions. Individual medals and prizes are at stake for the champion teams. Not to be outdone, Jollibee Pampanga will have one of the biggest playing venues among all 9 Area Championships. This will be at the church plaza right across the strategically located Jollibee host outlet.

Amputee to swim Mactan Channel

CEBU—One legged swimmer Arnold Balais of Cebu City will attempt to swim the three-kilometer stretch from Onlango Island to Tambuli Beach Resort in Mactan on May 13 to raise funds for the disabled. Balais 27 was inspired by the feat of amputee Rudy Fernandez of Ilolilo City, who swam the 28 kilometer Guimaras-Bacolod Strait in 1996. The fund raising, dubbed "Swim for a Limb," is being organized by the Handicap's Anchor is Christ (Haci) to support its project geared to provide artificial limbs for deserving members. Marathon man and event consultant Raffy Uytiepo, who is also Fernandez's coach, will be on hand to lend his experience during Balais' record-breaking swim. Balais lost his right leg from above the knee during a freak basketball game several years ago.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. En Carta 2. Might and Power 3. Man of the Hour 4. Bidang Bida

Race 3—1. With Feeling 2. Ply by Ear 3. High Fidelity 4. Big Kahuna

Race 4—1. May's Magic 2. Full Blast/Key to Heaven 3. Pro Bono 4. Ocean Friend

Race 5—1. Lavish Feast 2. River Bandit 3. D Barrister 4. Rose and Toy

Race 6—1. Corporate Law 2. Black Force 3. Party Princess 4. Busanda Strike

Race 7—1. Sunny Sky 2. Grand Prize 3. Lady Darinda

Race 8—1. Duke Mark 2. Exchange Deal 3. Darth Vader 4. Letshaveaparty

Race 9—1. Vanicx/Lucky Swing 2. Arresbee 3. Agimat 4. Perfect Lyza

BPES asks GMA ₱30M for Palarong Pambansa

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE BUREAU of Physical Education and School Sports said yesterday that it had asked Congress to approve a P30-million budget for the staging of the Palarong Pambansa this year.

Director Rolando Brillantes said the budget would cover all the expenses needed for the sportsfest, including the eliminations held in the regional level.

Once approved, he said the Games is set for September with Tubod, Lanao Del Norte, as host.

Brillantes said the budget request was coursed through Secretary Raul Roco of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the lead agency responsible for the Palaro's staging in the past.

Last year, DECS was kicked out as the Palaro organizer after then President Estrada transferred operations of the Palaro to the Philippine Sports Commission.

Ribaño is naive

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE RECENT letter of Mr. Romeo Ribaño, secretary general of the Philippine Olympic Committee, to the Opinion Page editor regarding the recent visit of International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch has raised more intriguing questions than answers. Mr. Ribaño is naïve. How does he know that Samaranch has no hidden agenda? Is he privy to the lifestyle (and excesses) of Samaranch?

The 81-year-old Samaranch is a veteran politician. In his tour of IOC member-countries, it is not farfetched to say that he campaigned for a successor who would be his ally in order that last year's most outrageous case of bribery in Olympic history would not be reopened. Most OIC representatives are beholden to Samaranch because they owe their positions to him, including Frank Elizalde, who was appointed in 1980.

Ribaño, president of the woefully unproductive squash association, said all NSA presidents were invited to the meeting with Samaranch. But I gathered that only 17 out of more than 30 regular POC members came. Why?

Ribaño also said that Robert Aventajado was elected (and not appointed as I reported), to the position of POC chair, adding that in 1999 the POC general assembly amended the POC constitution and bylaws, creating the position of chair in 1999. The position is illegal as far as I am concerned. It is not in the model composition of the National Olympic Committee. Besides, any amendment in the POC constitution and bylaws should be approved by the OIC before it could be implemented, *di ba?*

Meanwhile, Go Teng Kok, the combative president of the track and field association, wrote Ribaño to "share his thoughts" about the visit of Samaranch. Go said:

"I would like to place it on record the undersigned had nothing to do with Mr. Manolo Iñigo's column which was the subject of your letter that saw print on page 10 of today's (May 9) issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"However, inasmuch as may name was mentioned in both Mr. Iñigo's column and your rejoinder to his column, I would like to share my thoughts about the visit of International Olympic Committee president Señor Don Juan Antonio Samaranch:

1. Apparently, there was no effort on the part of the Philippine Olympic Committee to maximize the attendance of the NSA presidents at the meeting with Mr. Samaranch. In important occasions such as the outgoing OIC president's visit, the POC staff, at least, should have been instructed to call up the invitees who weren't able to confirm their attendance or did not respond to the invitation. (I wouldn't like to think the paid POC staff serves only the interests of the powers-that-be at the POC.

2. The POC leadership had its priorities mixed up with regard to the list of invitees when it favored the "current chairpersons of the various POC commissions" over the living past POC presidents. I don't know if Mr. Samaranch preferred meeting Mr. Nestor Ilagan, coaches commission chair, instead of renewing acquaintances with Col. Nereo Andolong, Col. Julian Malonso, Mr. Michael Keon, Gov. Jose C. Sering or coming face to face with Ms. Cristy Ramos, the first ever POC lady president. What I perfectly know is: Mr. Ilagan is an avowed lackey of the POC leadership.

3. Was Mr. Mauricio Martelino a current chair of a POC commission at that time? Why was he present? Mr. Martelino has admitted he had resigned as POC Marketing Director even before he had cast his lot with the (Freddie) Jalasco faction in theBasketball Association of the Philippines leadership conflict.

4. The POC leadership's tack of "limiting" the number of people to meet with Mr. Samaranch was less in accordance with Mr. Samaranch's wishes but more of consistency with its drive to marginalize the various NSA secretaries general it had left out of the POC general assembly meetings and it wanted to be appointed, instead of elected. For easier control?

Who's right? Who's wrong? You be the judge.

Pharmaton marathon

CEBU City plays host to the second leg of the highly successful Adidas Pharmaton 10K running circuit, which blasts off on June 3 in front of the Cebu Provincial Capitol. Race director Raffy Uytiepo said another banner field is expected with the participation of runners from all over the country including Runnex Inc. of Quezon City and Iloilo Oval Runners.

Also seeing action are the country's two oldest runners, Felipe Villanueva and Raymund San Juan, both 87.

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NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 2 p.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, First Round tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: Masters Series (Anaheim) at 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SMB seeks 3-0 lead vs Ginebra

GAME TODAY (Philsports)
7:15 p.m. – SMB vs Ginebra (Game 3)

Series at a Glance:
Game 1: SMB 81, Ginebra 75
Game 2: SMB 89, Ginebra 72

BARANGAY Ginebra, don't panic!

That's coach Allan Caidic's message as his Gin Kings go up against the San Miguel Beermen in today's Game 3 of the PBA All-Filipino Cup best-of-seven championship series.

"It's not over yet," said Caidic. "It's very tough but we can still make it."

Caidic exhorted his players not to panic after the Gin Kings' 89-72 Game 2 loss to the Beermen Wednesday night.

San Miguel, looking every inch a champion in winning the first two games of the Finals, will try to move a game closer to their 16th conference title at 7:15 p.m. today at Philsports.

"We won't think about winning four of the last five games because it's an additional burden," said Caidic. "We'll just try to win Game 3 and then work from there."

With the way the Beermen have been playing, however, the Gin Kings appear in trouble again today.

In Games 2 and 3, SMB outscored, outrebounded and outhustled Ginebra. The Beermen also had fewer turnovers than Ginebra.

"I can't question the heart of my players. The determination is there but we just committed mental mistakes and gave them free throws," said Caidic. "We can't afford to commit those kinds of mistakes against San Miguel."

In Game 2's third quarter, Danny Ildefonso made a scoring frenzy, causing the Gin Kings to lose their defensive poise that resulted in unnecessary fouls.

SMB coach Jong Uichico acknowledged the Gin Kings' comeback capability but refused to assess their chances in the series. "Until we win Game 3, I still can't say that we are sure of winning the title."

The truth is, their chances of winning today will again depend on Ildefonso and Danny Seigle, who have been creating mismatches with their sheer offensive prowess.

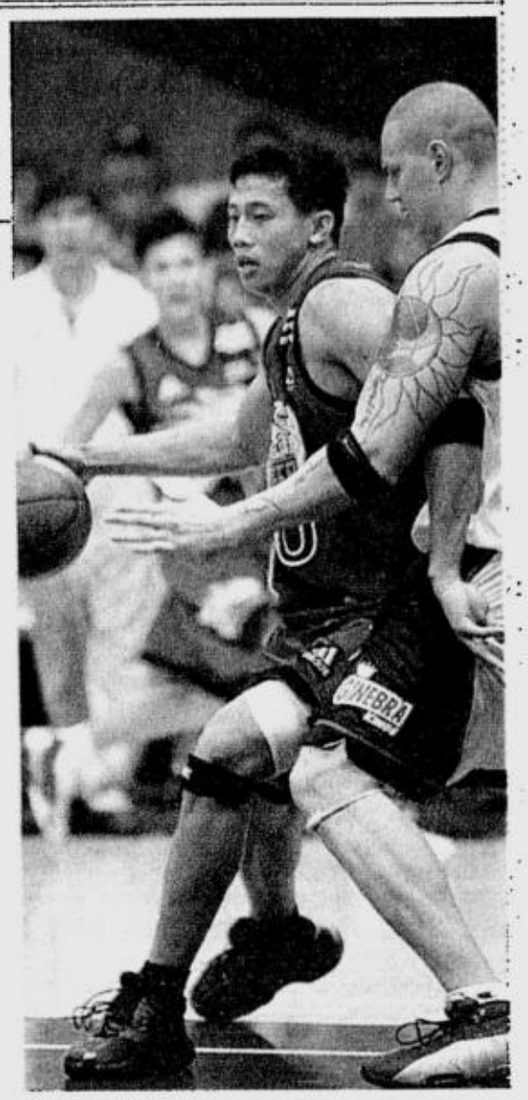
"We realized when we didn't double-team, the defense worsened," said Caidic, who initially relied on one-on-one to cover SMB's super-effective role players like Freddie Abuda, Dwight Lago and Nic Belasco.

Rookie Mark Caguioa turned in 19 points, seven rebounds, two assists and one block to lead the Gin Kings last Wednesday.

But his efforts hardly mattered as the other Gin Kings could not match up with San Miguel's manpower, especially big men Seigle and Ildefonso.

Barrios at Scoop

ACTING PBA Commissioner Sonny Barrios will be the main guest in today's Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (Scoop) forum at the Kamayan West Avenue. Barrios will talk about the ongoing championship series and the update on the sale of the Purefoods' franchise. The session starts at 10:30 a.m. and will be aired live over Sports Radio 918 AM.



DANNY Ildefonso of San Miguel Beer tries to outmaneuver Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano in Game 2 of their PBA Finals encounter Wednesday night. San Miguel won, 89-72, to take a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven series. ROMY HOMILLADA

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LP mayor replaces police chief A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

2 cleared of rape A27
Woman shot by mistake A27

We're being watched, say kin, classmates of slain UST student

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND LOUIE JON SANCHEZ

UNIDENTIFIED men have been casing the house of slain University of Santo Tomas student Mark Welson Chua following the arrest of an Army reservist who was implicated in the kidnap-murder case.

A relative of the victim said men on board cars were seen watching the Chuas from across their condominium building in Makati City last Monday and Tuesday.

The relative said she saw two men in a blue box-type Toyota Corolla parked in front of the Makati Sports Club surveying the area at about 11:30 a.m. Monday.

The relative said that since the car's heavily tinted windows were open, she could see that the men's eyes were glued on her and her companion.

"When our eyes met, I became very nervous," she said. "Their look was very different and I knew they were watching us."

She said the men left 30 minutes later after she called the attention of the sports club security guard.

At about 5 p.m. Tuesday, at least four men in a blue Suzuki station wagon, also with heavily tinted windows, were reportedly seen in the same area.

The relative said the men were "suspiciously staring" at her children from the driver's window. The men left a few minutes later.

Mark's father Welson said those behind the abduction and murder of his son could be watching his family.

"We will never be at peace as long as the masterminds are at large," Welson said.

He said he was told by Mark's classmates that

WE'RE/A28

'Angelo Reyes' stabbed

BY JEROME ANING

A NAMESAKE of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is in critical condition after a group of alleged drug addicts ganged up on him and stabbed him in San Andres Bukid, Manila Wednesday night. It was the second time the victim was stabbed since January, police said.

Angelo Reyes, 19, of 1325 San Andres, Singalong, Manila, was attacked by a group of other young men at the corner of Anak Bayan and Mataas na Lupa streets around 9 p.m., police said.

Western Police District Station 9 commander Supt. Armando Pabustan said residents who witnessed the attack found a bleeding Reyes crawling on the ground and brought him to the Ospital ng Maynila.

Pabustan said that on Jan. 11, Reyes was also stabbed by a group of alleged drug dependents on Tuazon Street in Malate.

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Atienza, two others charged with overpricing bottled water

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

REELECTIONIST Manila Mayor Jose "Lito" Atienza and another city official are facing graft charges before the Ombudsman for allegedly overpricing the bottled water supply for the City Hall.

For a five-gallon refill of mineral water, the city government pays P110 to Water Shop Pure Drinking Water, or P60 more than the market price of P50 per refill, according to lawyer Amando Tetangco who filed the graft complaint.

But city legal officer Melchor Monsod, in a phone interview, dismissed the charges as "part of a desperate

ATIENZA/A28

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Plunder raps filed vs Abalos and son, Pasay officials

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos and his son, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr., have been charged with plunder before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly stealing P719 million from the city government's coffers.

In Pasay City, plunder charges, too, were yesterday filed by Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad against Vice Mayor Greg Alcera and Councilor Romulo Cabrera in connection with the "anomalous disbursement" of P57.6 million from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

The charges against the Abalos father and son and the Pasay officials were filed a week after Makati Vice Mayor Edu Manzano and Councilors Dean Barbers and Mark Joseph asked the Ombudsman to investigate Makati Mayor Elenita Binay and her husband, former Mayor Jejomar Binay, for allegedly amassing P1 billion in unexplained wealth since 1986.

Real estate broker Serafin S. Neria, said to be a former friend of Abalos Sr., asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to immediately investigate the Abalos father and son for allegedly plundering the city for the past 15 years.

Neria is running for councilor under the ticket of Abalos Jr.'s closest rival for the mayoralty, Ernesto Domingo Jr.

Abalos Jr. dismissed Neria's charges as "a last-ditch legal effort" of his rival Domingo to avoid defeat in the May 14 elections.

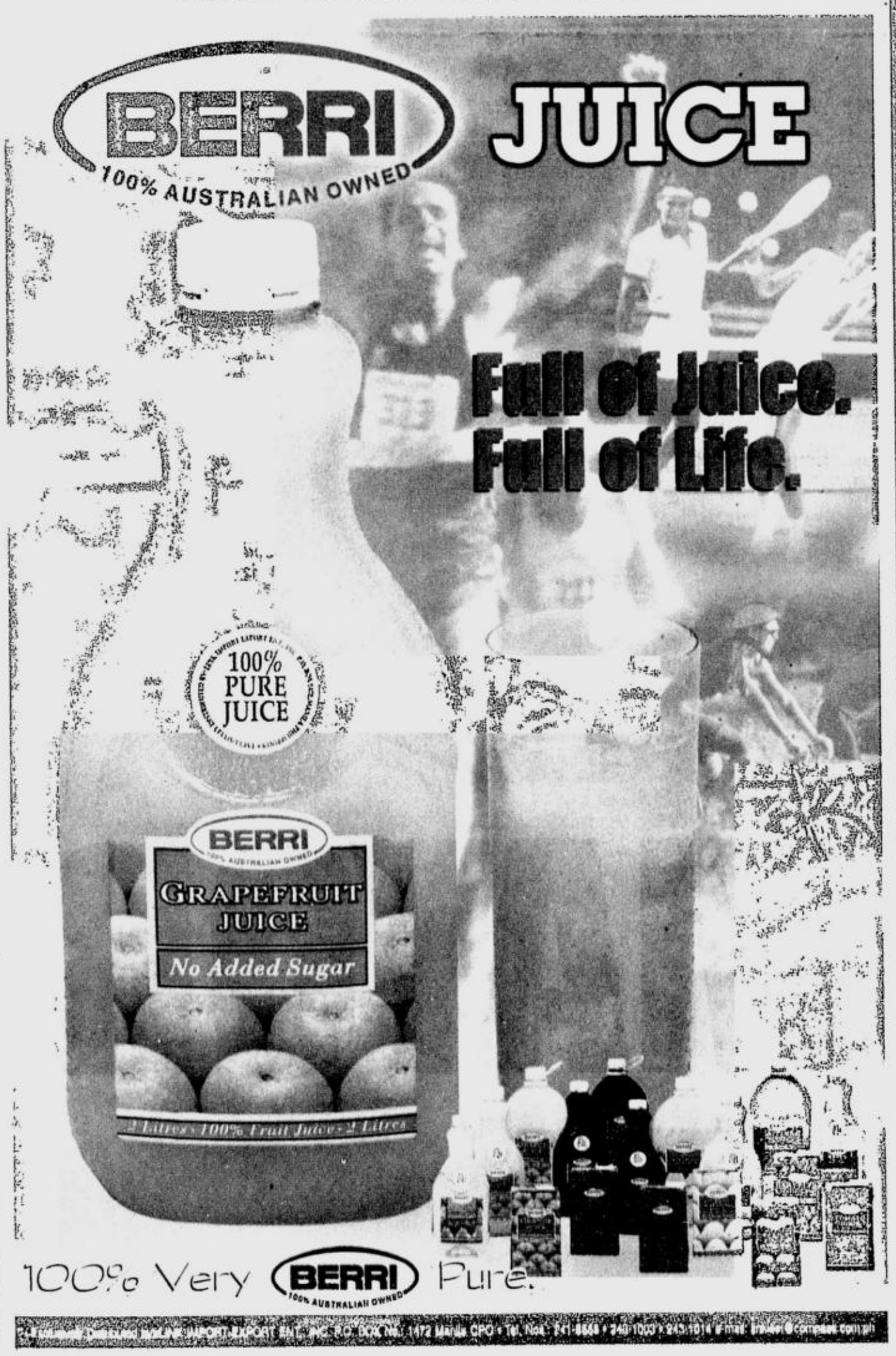
He also said Neria is "a perennial electoral loser" being used by Domingo.

Abalos Sr. was Mandaluyong mayor for three consecutive terms, from 1986 to 1998 when his son replaced him.

In a nine-page complaint-affidavit, Neria said the Abaloses "misappropriated, converted, misused and/or stole public funds to enrich themselves by using their offices."

Neria said that before 1986, Abalos Sr. owned only a house and lot located on Kanlaon Street in Highway Hills in

PLUNDER/A28



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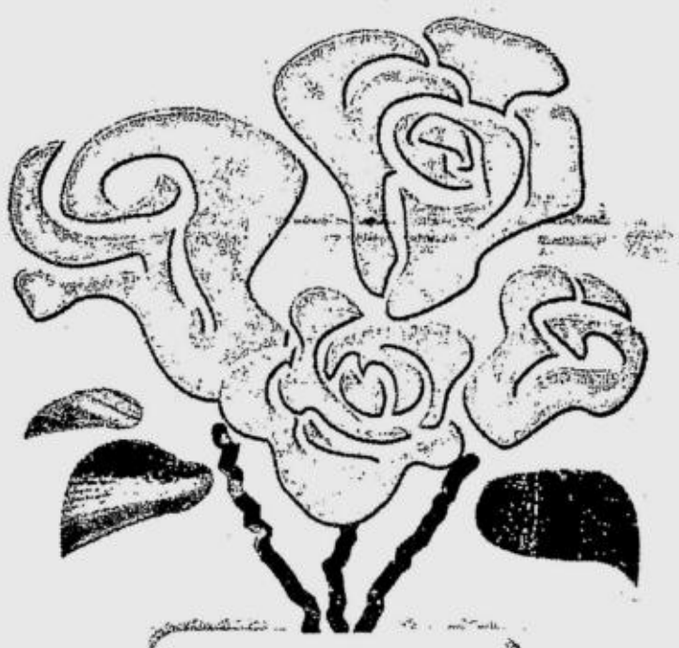
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FOR MAYOR

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2 cleared of rape

By Christian Esguerra, Paul Ernest Lazaro, and Louie Jon Sanchez

A MALABON Regional Trial Court yesterday acquitted two young men of taking part in the alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old high school student three years ago.

In a nine-page decision, Judge Benjamin Antonio said he found no substantial evidence to convict Alvin Tordillo, 22, and Reynaldo Carbonilla, 21, both of Bayan-Bayanan, Malabon, of rape.

The girl claimed Tordillo, Carbonilla, and four other men took turns in raping her in at least three different houses in Malabon from Feb. 4 to 5.

But Antonio ruled that the girl had consented to have sex with the accused.

Medical examination conducted on the girl after the supposed rapes showed she was no longer a virgin and that there were no "external signs of application of any form of violence" on her genitals.

Court records showed that the girl was on her way to school at about 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 4, 1999 when tricycle driver David Hizon offered to give her a ride. Hizon was said to be the girl's boyfriend.

But instead of taking her to school, Hizon allegedly brought her to Tordillo's house, where she was supposedly forced to sniff methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

She claimed she was raped several times by Hizon, Tordillo, and a certain Bulak for the next several hours.

After a drinking session at about 7 p.m., the group allegedly brought her to Carbonilla's house where she was supposedly gang-raped again.

She said she was later moved to another house.

Judge Antonio, however, ruled that the girl's lurid account of the rapes showed that the experience could not have been an ordeal to her, but happened with her consent.

"Once (a person is) subjected to sexual torture, (one) can hardly be expected to see what was being done to her and keep track of the duration of each encounter."

The court also noted that the girl "did not even offer resistance whenever she would be subjected to sexual attack."

Antonio said it was unthinkable for the accused to transfer the girl from one house to another since she could have easily blown the whistle on them.

LP mayor replaces police chief

By Alcuin Papa

LAS PIÑAS Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar on Wednesday relieved the Las Piñas chief of police.

Sources in the city said that Aguilar replaced Supt. Perpetuo Sanson with the city police's Criminal Investigation Division chief, Supt. Armando Pineda, as officer-in-charge.

The head of the Southern Police District, Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, said Sanson's relief was part of a "routine assignment and reassignment."

"Besides, he was overstaying at his posts, having been there for three years," Gutierrez said.

A source who requested anonymity said Sanson was replaced because Aguilar was reportedly peeved when the chief of police allowed a march against political dynasties to be held in the city. The march was led by running priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

"He supposedly did not want that rally to be held but Sanson allowed it anyway," the source said. "This made him (Aguilar) very upset."

Gutierrez said he had conducted an investigation of the matter but turned up with nothing against Sanson. "For the meantime, he has been relieved to give him some peace of mind," he said.

Las Piñas policemen said Sanson had gone on leave. The INQUIRER tried but failed to get the side of Aguilar, who was not in his office.

Woman shot by mistake

A YOUNG woman worker is in critical condition after she was shot in the head while she was watching television with her mother in Valenzuela on Tuesday night.

Carlin Adique, 21, of Barangay Karuhatan, Valenzuela took a bullet in the back of the head at about 8 p.m., police said.

Members of the Valenzuela Police Investigation and Intelligence Bureau withheld the name of the suspect pending his arrest.

Insp. Salvador dela Cruz, SIIB chief, said Adique could have been shot by mistake since the gunman was believed to have been after the woman's father.

Police said the father drew the ire of neighbors for his "uncivilized" behavior whenever he is drunk.

Adique was watching TV with her mother when she suddenly fell on her side and blood gushed from a bullet wound on the back of her head, police said.

She was brought to the Valenzuela General Hospital where she remains in serious condition. *Mark Isaias David and Christian Esguerra*

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MAY 14, 2001

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4. Flavier
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7. Drilon
8. Chato
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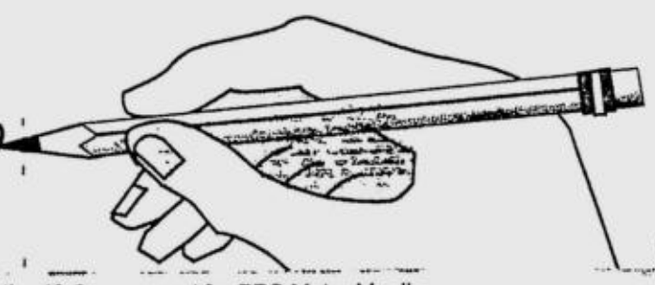

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This ad has been paid for by the 13-0 movement for PPC Metro Manila

Who's to blame? Mr. Ronnie reports

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(GOOD & BAD: A surprise caller yesterday was Francis Cevallos, a teammate in the old Sunday Times Magazine. The man says he's running for congressman in the first district of Quezon City. That's good news. A seasoned political writer, Cevallos has vowed to fight for badly needed changes in government and society....Bad news for boxing fans. Looks like the Felix Trinidad fight scheduled on Sunday will not be carried on local television after all. It has obviously become another victim of the deteriorated peso-dollar situation.)

***

THEIR intentions were noble. All they wanted was to give the crowd a great fight. A sparkling bout people would be talking about long after it was over. There's no longer any reason to restate how the handlers of Gerry Peñalosa had prepared him for last Saturday's defense of the WBC international super flyweight crown.

Peñalosa had been honed and re-sharpened like a gleaming knife. Before the fight, the Japanese challenger bragged there was no way he could lose.

Gerry countered by saying he would quit boxing if the visitor beats him. Sorry, but much as we would like to avoid the issue, there's no way we could deny how local fans had reacted to the forgettable result of that fight. The crowd felt cheated after Keiji Yamaguchi, the Japanese challenger, fell and gave up in less than a round.

***

Yes, there was no intent whatsoever of defrauding the crowd. His main handler, sportsman Rudy Salud, said Peñalosa only did what he had promised: to fight his best.

I was myself all set to forget the issue, until I read what a very reliable insider, who had been privy to the staging and broadcasting of that title fight, had to reveal in dismay.

We mean Ronnie Nathanielsz, who worked the bout on television with the popular sports columnist, Joaquin Henson.

From what he had to reveal, it would appear Mr. Ronnnie (I worked under him straight from college) could not live with his conscience if he did not unleash his displeasure over what happened in the main event at the Araneta Coliseum on Saturday.

"I was as frustrated as you," Nathanielsz told Manila Bulletin sports editor Ding Marcelo.

***

Ding, an old-time buddy, was actually in my place Tuesday evening where he renewed old ties with Olympian Narciso Bernardo, a leading candidate for another council seat in Mandaluyong.

Ding had actually told me part of Mr. Ronnie's complaint, but I sincerely thought it was not for public consumption. Until I read Mr. Marcelo's column the morning after.

Wrote Ding: "Before anyone rejoices over Gerry's first-round TKO, they might want to know that the Japanese was nine pounds overweight when he came three days before the fight. Even the worst boxer in the Abap stable would have killed him."

"The guy was dead even before he entered the ring," added Ding quoting Nathanielsz.

It turned out that Yamaguchi was so bloated he tried everything to make the 115-pound limit.

"He shaved his head and weighed in naked," Nathanielsz informed Ding. Yamaguchi, said Ding, made the weight but barely.

"Most probably, he weighed in over the limit but local officials perhaps just closed their eyes because they knew this guy would be massacred anyway."

***

In a way, Ding noted, Ronnie Nahtanielsz came out with the revelations as a way of atoning for the television coverage of the bout which nearly got totally blocked out by a barrage of commercials. "We had three hours of block time and there were only eight rounds for the whole card," rued Nathanielsz. "What can we do?"

***

At first, Nathanielsz was unwilling to point an accusing finger at the foreigner who brought in the fighters, including the two Thais aptly described by Hermie Rivera as two prime ministers who had been toppled by a coup back home. Mr. Marcelo said Nathanielsz was uncertain if there was bad faith on the part of Joe Koizumi for bringing in a fighter who was totally out of Peñalosa's league. "But after what happened, Ronnie was almost certain there was," continued Ding in his widely followed and respected column. "Although Yamaguchi carried passable credentials, being a former world champion, the guy was probably down on his luck and was inveigled by Koizumi to earn a quick buck and enjoy the country's hospitality."

At first we did try to brush off that forgettable main bout as a comedy. But after all that had been revealed, we can only conclude that it was truly a tragedy (for Philippine boxing.)

see more at the Men's Section, 2/f

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Atienza, two . . . (From page A25)

move by the (Alfredo) Lim camp."

"It's obviously a systematic scheme to overcome an overwhelming lead by Mayor Atienza," Monsod told the Inquirer.

Also named respondents in the case were city secretary Emmanuel Sison and Jose Mari Medina, owner of Water Shop.

Tetangco, said to be a supporter of Atienza's rival Lim, assailed the city government for entering into a contract with Water Shop without any public bidding.

He said the contract was "manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the city government" and "clearly a violation of Republic Act No. 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act."

Atienza "gave (Water Shop) unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference in the discharge of his official functions through evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence," the lawyer alleged.

The Ombudsman has yet to furnish City Hall a copy of Tetangco's complaint.

Atienza's critics had cited the "mineral water issue," among others, in a disqualification case filed with the Commission on Elections against the mayor.

Atienza told the Comelec the alleged illegal expenditures were "covered by disbursement vouchers and justifications," which he said were "properly examined and evaluated."

The expenses were "found complying with standard accounting and auditing requirements for disbursement of public funds," Atienza explained.

In January 1999, the Commission on Audit asked City Hall to explain "why the unit price of a five gallon-refill (in a sales invoice) was P110 and not P50, otherwise the amount of P20,460 will be disallowed in a post-audit."

A copy of Water Shop receipt No. 229, dated Jan. 4, 1999, showed that City Hall paid P37,510 for the 341 bottles of mineral water.

Both city auditor Reynaldo Montalbo and state auditor Armando Dimaano noted that "the cost of a five-gallon refill is only P50," not P110.

Tetangco had furnished the Ombudsman copies of invoices.

Plunder raps filed vs Abalos and son, Pasay officials

(From page A25)

Mandaluyong, and a 1982 Toyota Crown.

After 15 years, the Abalos family acquired several pieces of property which cost a total of about P1 billion, Neria said.

He said the Abaloses, as public officials, acquired the pieces of property "which are manifestly out of proportion to their lawful income and their income from their legitimately acquired property, if any."

This, he said, despite "the fact that the joint gross incomes of the (two) over the past 15 years do not even amount to P7 million."

He said the monthly income of a city mayor was P28,000 and that of a councilor P22,000. In a year's time, a mayor would earn P364,000 and a councilor, P286,000, he said.

He said "the legitimate incomes of respondents from 1986 to 2001 would be P4.3 million for Abalos Sr. and P1.9 million for Benhur."

He said he gathered evidence that showed that Abalos Sr. and his wife Corazon owned a P14-million lot in Tagaytay, a P15-million resthouse in Baguio and a P15-million lot in Wack Wack Village, Mandaluyong.

They also own several lots in Mandaluyong as well as four Mitsubisih Pajeros, two Ford Expeditions, two Starex vans and one Porsche sports car worth P15 million.

He alleged that the wealth was acquired by the Abaloses "directly or indirectly through dummies, nominees, relatives, agents, subordinates and/or business associates."

In a statement, Abalos Jr. accused Neria of having "invented" the alleged assets.

In Pasay, Mayor Trinidad in a three-page complaint asked the Omubdsman to investigate Alcera and Cabrera for the "anomalous disbursement" of P57.6 million given to the city by Pagcor as the latter's monthly voluntary assistance from July 1998 to May 2001.

Alcera and Trinidad are fighting for the Pasay mayoralty. Alcera is running under the Lakas party while Trinidad is affiliated with the Puwersa ng Masa of former President Estrada.

Trinidad said that on July 1, 1998, Pagcor chair Alice Reyes gave the city P3 million a month as voluntary financial assistance. The Office of the Mayor would be allotted P1.4 million while the remaining P1.6 million would go to the city council.

Pasay City treasurer Concepcion Daplas said her office had been receiving the P1.4 million share of the Office of the Mayor but not the P1.6 million allotted for the Office of the Vice Mayor and the city council, despite Pagcor's confirmation that it had been continuously remitting the P3 million since July 1998.

Trinidad said in his complaint that no Pasay projects could be said to have been funded by the Pagcor money.

Alcera said Trinidad's accusations were "malicious, unsubstantiated, and politically motivated.'

"It's all part of a smear drive against me," Alcera said. "It was only intended to malign my name because councilors who are not included in my party slate were not mentioned in the charges."

Only Alcera and Councilor Cabrera were named in the charges. Michael Lim Ubac, Agnes E. Donato, Alcuin Papa, Nickson Ryan Matias, Allison Lopez, Lorraine Santos

We're being watched . . . (From page A25)

his son had also been placed under "surveillance" after he and other students exposed the alleged corruption in the UST Reserve Officers Training Corps.

The revelation led to the relief of the UST ROTC commandant, Army Major Demy Tejares, and his entire staff.

The National Bureau of Investigation suspects that Mark was killed due to his expos,. The NBI has in its custody Sergeants Genesis Binagatan and his brother Jeoffrey.

Aside from the alleged surveillance, Mark's family had received several phone calls from an unidentified woman who told them to be "extra careful and not to trust anybody."

The caller warned that the masterminds remain at large and that a certain Sergeant De la Cruz was involved in Mark's abduction, the relative said.

De la Cruz is closely identified with Tejares and even volunteered to investigate Mark's case, Welson said.

Mark's decomposing body was found in the Pasig River on March 18, two days after he was abducted.

NBI said witnesses positively identified Genesis as among four men who threw the body into the river.

The NBI is still looking for the three other suspects.

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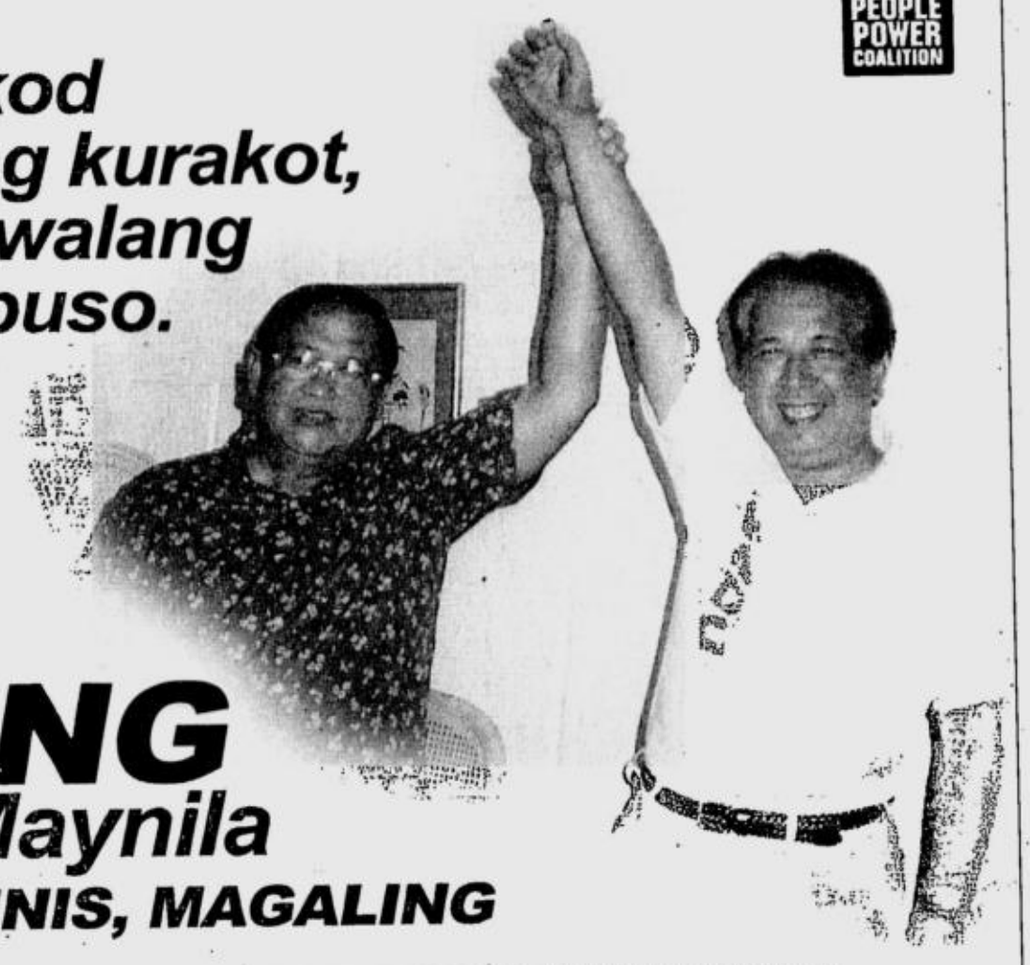
- SEC. RAUL ROCO, DECS



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Singer, cager play golf for streetchildren

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

THREE years after singer Louie Heredia and Metropolitan Basketball Association player Alex Compton met during an MBA game in Davao, they have become close friends, thanks largely to their extraordinary love for children.

The two celebrities are doing their share to help Metro Manila's streetchildren. Their latest effort is a fund-raising golf tournament, "Palaro Alay sa Kapwa," held today at the Canlubang Golf Club in Canlubang, Laguna.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to Pangarap Foundation and to HOPE Worldwide-Philippines, both non-government organizations which aim to rehabilitate streetchildren and help poor families find means to earn a living.

"Pangarap is a great place," says Alex. "You can tell this by the way the kids behave and the way the staff trains them in terms of how they treat one another and their manners.

"Remember these are streetchildren who either come from broken homes or have run away from something. They have no guidance, no discipline. They have no idea how they're being infected by bad things around them. They can still do so much for themselves, and it's up to us to help them."

The fund raised in the tournament will help pay for the education of Pangarap children and the needs of Hope Worldwide-Philippines' Center for Prevention and Identification of Child Sexual Abuse.

The children will be given vocational or technical training through Pangarap's Teaching Services. "They get jobs working in hotels, or do appliances repairs, among others," Alex says.

Hope has also set up community centers in poor areas like the former Smokey Mountain and Baseco in Manila, and Payatas in Quezon City and sends trained facilitators to communicate with the families there.

"A lot of kids are not aware that their parents are actually abusing them and they don't even know that it's wrong," says Alex. "(In squatter areas,) everybody lives so close together and things like this happen so much."

Studies show 89 percent of the children living in poor communities are sexually abused, he says.

"It is like a chain," he says. "If you are abused, you are likely to abuse someone. This just keeps on going and going. Cause-oriented groups like Hope are trying to break that chain."

Louie said it all started out when he first felt this need to share what he has with the less fortunate. It was Christmas 1998, and to make it more meaningful, the money that he was supposed to spend on gifts for his friends went to an orphanage or a shelter for streetchildren.

He found out from his sister-in-law that Alex, whom he met just a few months back, was also doing outreach work in Pangarap.

"I talked with him and said 'why don't we put up a project or throw a Christmas party for the kids?'," Louie says. "We did. Many of our friends came to help and the kids loved it."

Inspired by the party's success, Louie and Alex, along with friends Bunny and Ginny Barrera, Ramon Lacson, Clarissa Gonzales Lacson, Ana Zosa and Eds Genuino have decided to go on doing projects for the foundation.

The group was also responsible for the success of Pangarap's "Lugaw Festival." The foundation would sell tickets for *lugaw* (rice porridge) at P1,000 each every Holy Week. The group decided to help sell tickets. This became their first Pangarap project.

The group set out to sell 20 tickets each, but competition set in and they all tried to outsell each other. "In the end it was Alex and another friend, Bianca, who fought for first place," Louie recalls. "Both of them sold close to P80,000 worth of tickets. We were able to raise almost P300,000 for that lugaw project."

Heartbroken

As a boy, Louie would hang out with the family driver and the helpers.

"They were my *barkada* when I was small," he says. "I was really close to them, maybe that's why I know the feeling of the less fortunate."

He is constantly reminded of the time he went to a TV station to donate a portion of his allowance to a boy who was suffering from hydrocephalus. Louie was just in grade school then and was heartbroken when he learned later that the little boy died.

A few years later, he asked the boy's mother to become his personal maid.

"*Manang* Piling is with me now, and always, she makes me tell people the story about his son and the people who tried to help him," he says.

Brought up by loving parents, Alex, who is point guard for the MBA's Metro Star team, was greatly affected by how many Filipino families live when he first came to the country.

"I hadn't seen so much poverty," Alex says. "I was introduced to people at Unicef who started taking me around to shelters. That was when I began helping out."

Alex studied human development and family studies in college. He believes that had he lived in another country, he would still be involved with children and tend to their needs.

Alex recounts how his father, a professor who travels a lot, would fly back home from places like Uganda or China just to watch him play whenever he had a basketball game.

"I was so secure," he says. "That's how obvious it was to me that I was loved so much by my parents. They would fly across the world just to watch me play."

This, he says, probably drove him to reach out to neglected children. Though he admits it can be really frustrating at times, he gets encouragement from stories of street kids who have worked their way up.

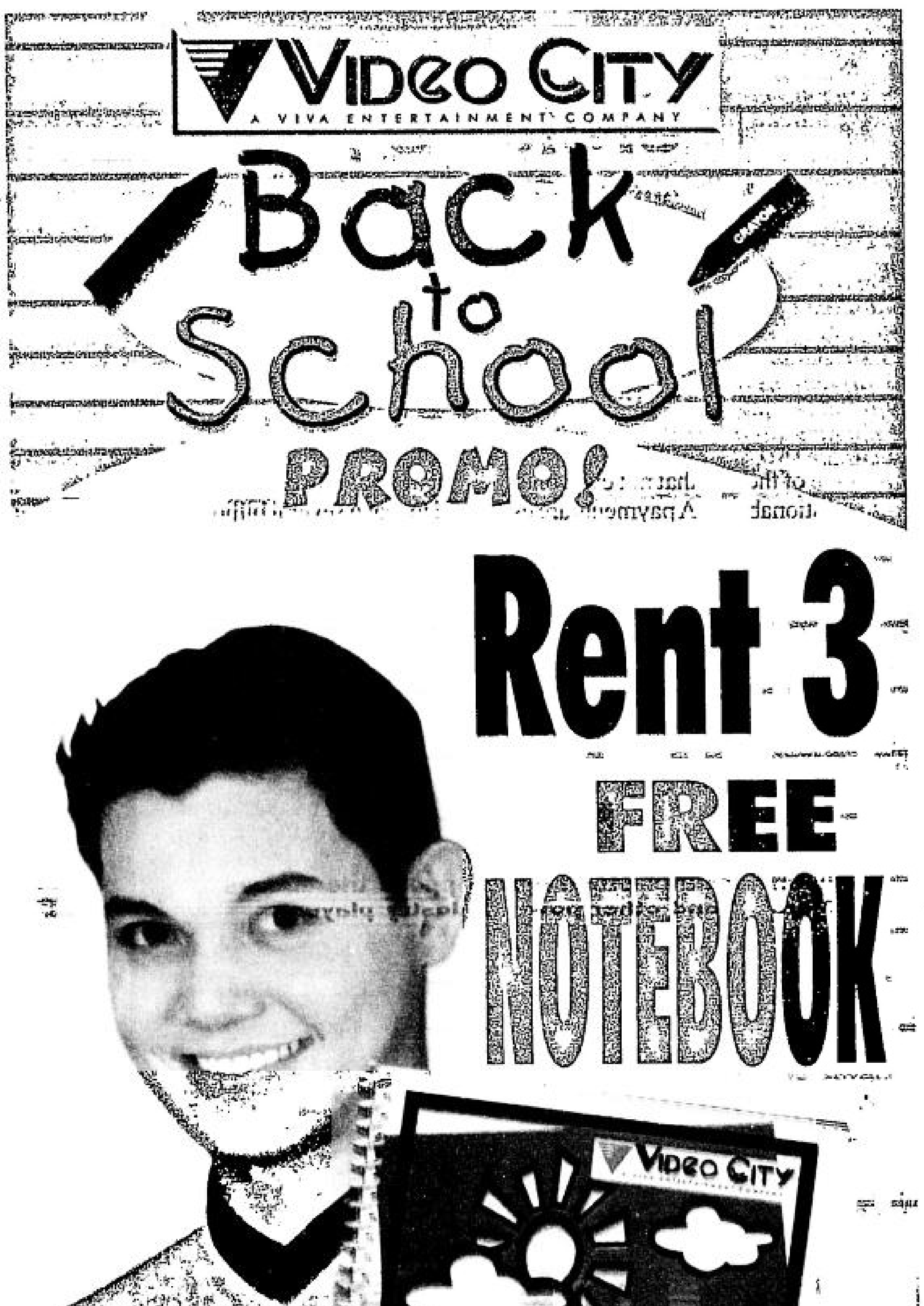
On the street again

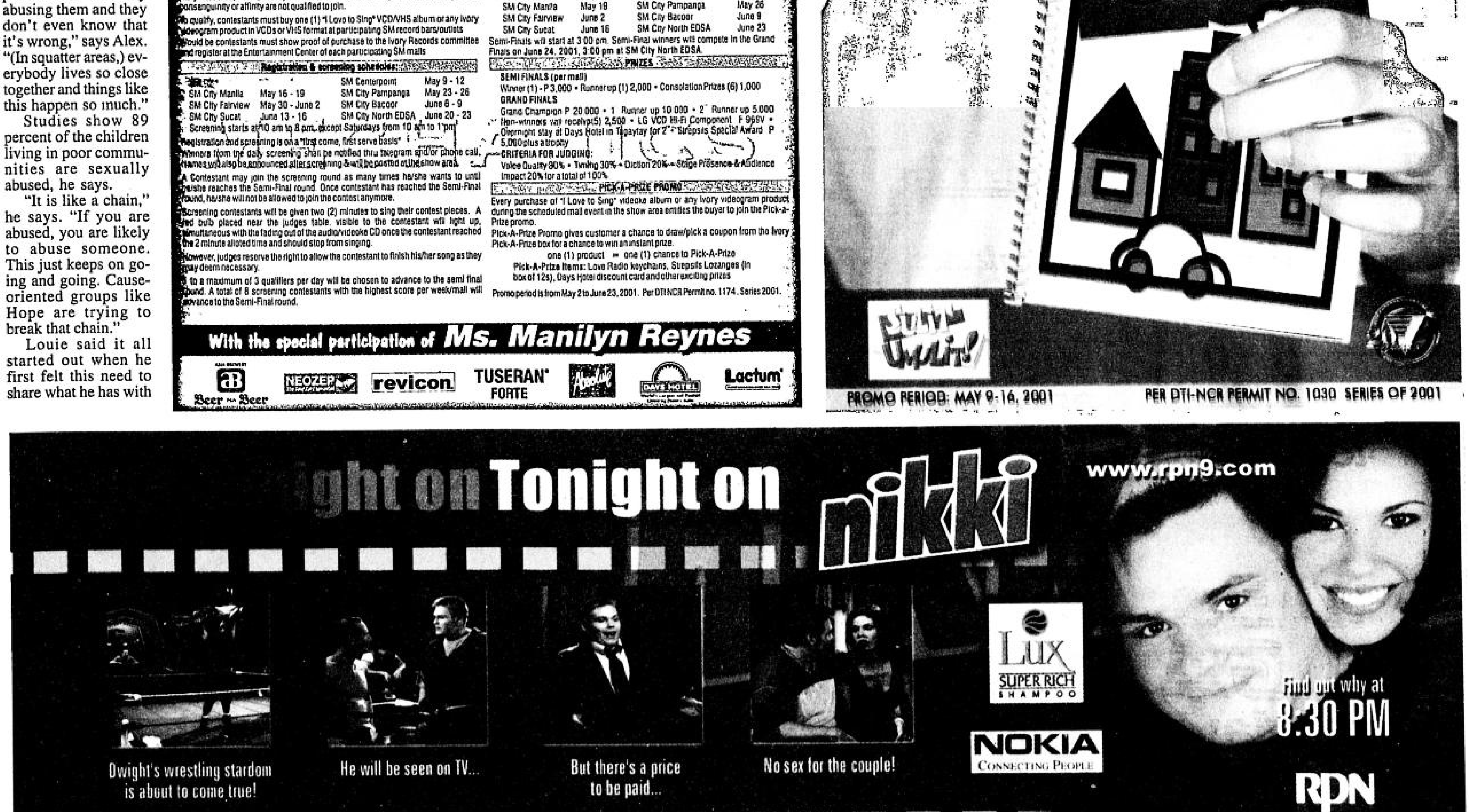
Alex's heart was nearly broken when he saw a kid from

SINGER/A31

HIGH NOTE. Louie Heredia sings for Pangarap children during a Christmas party.

HIGH SCORE. Alex Compton visits the wards of Pangarap.





Singer, cager play golf for streetchildren

(From page A29)

Pangarap on the street again, begging in ragged clothes. "He could be back to sniffing rugby," he says.

Alex is aware of sad realities on the street, but he believes that for every "20 horrible stories a person has, there is one that's good."

"That's why there are still organizations like Pangarap that really give children opportunities and guidance," he says.

For three years, Alex, Louie and their friends engaged in various fundraising activities for Pangarap, one of which was the highly successful "Tuition Tee," a golf benefit to put two street kids through college.

The amount they were able to raise was more than enough for the two children they sent off to college.

"I think we only had 40 people to play golf and a few sponsors to help us out," Alex says. "People didn't mind paying more than what they normally would, especially if they know the money will go to a cash-strapped shelter like this. Besides, golf is fun."

One of the beneficiaries is taking up psychology at the Philippine National University, while the other is studying computer programming at STI Computer College, according to Pangarap Foundation director Bro. Francisco Tanega.

"Today, they are already reunited with their families," Tanega says. The foundation will also send two more children to school with the help of the fund generated by today's golf tournament.

For 'Mareng' Winnie

When not busy arranging golf benefit projects, Louie is pursuing another cause for streetchildren—helping senatorial candidate Winnie Monsod get a seat in the Senate so she can push for the education of every Filipino child.

"I believe in Mareng Winnie, and the things she is fighting for," says Louie.

Alex is practicing six times a week in preparation for next month's opening of the MBA's third season.

"I spend five to six hours practicing daily and end my day at around 11," he says.

The "Palaro Alay sa Kapwa" golf tournament is supported by Dole Philippines, Hartmann Apparels, Procter & Gamble, Unilever, Johnson & Johnson, California Manufacturing Company, Allied Domecq, Torres Brandy, Universal Robina Corp., Selecta Ice Cream, South Supermarket, Kraft, GNP, BC Management Consultancy, Gandour, Monde Nissin, LBC and Kimberly Clark.

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1 DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2 DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
4 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
6 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
8 DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO

SM CENTERPOINT 7148522 • 7161416

1 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBER
3 DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4 DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
6 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
7 DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1 DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
2 DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
3 DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4 DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8 DOLBY SURROUND	15 MNUTES
9 DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
10 DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11 DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12 DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1 DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2 DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
3 DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
4 DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
6 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7 DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8 DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
9 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
11 DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1 ULTRA SURROUND	DIVINO
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1 DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
9 DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
10 DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
12 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9296462

1 DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
2 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4 DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5 DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6 DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
7 DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10 DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12 DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1 ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
2 ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
3 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 ULTRA SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
6 ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7 ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9 ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
10 ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1 ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO

SM CEBU 2313876

1 DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2 ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3 ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5 ULTRA SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7 DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1 ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2 ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3 ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5 ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
6 ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7 ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8 ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
2 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
3 DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

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1 15 MINUTES	1 EXIT WOUNDS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 SUGAR AND SPICE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 LUCKY NUMBERS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	1 15 MINUTES THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 SOMEONE LIKE YOU	2 LUCKY NUMBERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 15 MINUTES in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?	3 15 MINUTES THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 SAY IT ISN'T SO in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 EXIT WOUNDS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE MEXICAN	4 ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 Onstage	4 LUCKY NUMBERS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 FINDING FORRESTER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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FESTIVAIL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
2 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER
3 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	FINDING FORRESTER
8 (PREM)	BALIKTARAN
9 (PREM)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 (PREM)	SUGAR & SPICE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
2	SWEET NPVEMBER
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	DUKE
5	WOMAN ON TOP
6 (DTS)	RESERVE

Golden Pearl THX

Marsagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
3	RESERVE

Marsagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
3	MAY ISANG PUSO

Starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	BALIKTARAN
3	15 MINUTES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
3	15 MINUTES
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	RESERVE
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT SA MAGDAMAG
8	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
2	BODY TO BODY
3	ANOTHER 9 ½ WEEKS

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALIKTARAN
A	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BALIKTARAN
2	BLAIRWITCH
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	MAY ISANG PUSO
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER
9 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	MAY ISANG PUSO

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
5	15 MINUTES
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	MAY ISANG PUSO
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE
6	15 MINUTES
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	RESERVE

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAY ISANG PUSO

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAY ISANG PUSO

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MAY ISANG PUSO
Lords	BEDROOM SECRET
Jennat	WINASAK

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	15 MINUTES
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MADERASO
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO
2 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MADERASO
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	AIR BUD
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE CROW
2	BALIKTARAN
3	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	MADERASO

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	BALIKTARAN

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	THE MEXICAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma tel 879.2168

1	THE WEDDING PLANNER
2	EXIT WOUNDS

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	BALIKTARAN
3	RESERVE
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	BALIKTARAN
4 (DTS EX)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. THE MEXICAN
6. LUCKY NUMBERS
7. 15 MINUTES

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4. EXIT WOUNDS
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. BALIKTARAN

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1. SWEET NOVEMBER
2. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3. THE CROW
4. ANTI TRUST
5. THE SEDUCER
6. EXTREME WARRIORS

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAY ISANG PUSO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LUCKY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	15 MINUTES
ODEON-2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	15 MINUTES
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RECESS
CINEMA-2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA ...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-6	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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Hear the Difference. See the Excitement

Lino Brocka remembered

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME veteran movie people and film buffs have noted with sadness that on May 22, we will be observing the 10th anniversary of the death of National Artist for Film **Lino Brocka**.

They're sad because they continue to miss their colleague and friend, even if a decade has passed since he left us—that's how vivid his personality was, how exceptional his movies were, and how good and caring he was as a friend.

There's sadness, too, over the fact that, 10 full years after Lino's demise, nobody has been able to step into his shoes, to carry on his fight for better, more committed filmmaking—although many lesser talents have dared to crown themselves as Brocka's heirs apparent (—apparent only to them).

What did Lino Brocka have that they haven't been able to approximate, despite their best efforts to pass gumption off as real talent and commitment?

Doing a Brocka requires much more than just making movies about society's outsiders and victims, shot in Lino's signature squatter locations, with characters mouthing seethingly witty diatribes against the rich and hypocritical, showing up politicians and social climbers for the vainglorious fakes they really are.

Today's ersatz Brockas may be able to approximate these key elements, but when they put them together, the finished creation beats with a cold, utilitarian heart.

You simply can't fudge passion, genuine involvement and the readiness to do anything and even give up everything in order to come up with a film that will force viewers to face the worst and the best about themselves.

Those, and not the "signature" squatter locales, are what truly distinguish Brocka's works from other filmmakers', and they can't be imitated.

Another point: with Brocka, life and film were one—which is why his movies throbbed with *his* view of life, nobody else's. That, again, can't be approximated with conviction, especially not by many of today's filmmakers, who have become far too comfortable with compromise.

Take this currently "hot" issue of excessive sex in cinema. Brocka made some sexy movies, but none of them ended up as *bomba* movies even in the '70s, when super-sexy films were "allowed."

He knew when to stop after he had made his erotic point, and when enough was enough—unlike some directors today, whose "enough" is far too much!

So, if there are new filmmakers out there who want to become "another Lino Brocka," our best advise is: don't even try, because you're sure to fail—and look trying–hard in the process, because Lino is a tough act to follow.

Brocka became Brocka because he was Brocka, with all of his unique attributes, goals and drives, so it's futile for the picayune non-Brockas out there to try to approximate his depth and stature. All they can do is be the best they can be, in their own little or big way.

As for Lino Brocka, 10 full years after his death, he and his film ethos are still sorely missed.

We trust that the movie industry, or at least the late, lamented National Artist for Film's closest colleagues and friends, will remember him in a manner befitting the significance of his contribution to Filipino films, and the greatness of our continuing sense of loss over his tragic demise.

Talents on tour

ASIATEC Music, Concorde Records' production outfit, has a new singing discovery in **Diwata**, whose hit single is "Sisirin Mo" (an appropriate theme song for a movie about mermaids, don't you think?).

For his part, **Michael Laygo** will launch his third single, "Heto Ako," at the end of the month. And rap artists **Oblaxz** and **I.P.K.** have released the albums "Perdegana" and "Money or Respect," respectively.

Diwata, Michael Laygo, Olbaxz and I.P.K. are currently on a mall tour to boost public awareness of their latest albums.

Dong rings a bell wherever he goes

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THANKS to TV, senatorial candidate **Dong Puno** is instantly recognized in every nook and cranny of the country where he tirelessly campaigns.

"I'm amazed at how people recognize me and call my name wherever I go," Dong says. "Before, I thought only the AB crowd knew me, but even in the public markets, I was surprised that I fared very strongly in the CD category.

"Being from TV gave me a big edge. I left ABS-CBN in April last year, but after that I became even more visible on TV when I worked as press secretary and presidential spokesperson. I believe it's just a matter of visibility."

While he admits he misses the thrill of doing live interviews in his now-defunct program, "Dong Puno Live," he says he doesn't mind the demands and rigors of campaigning nationwide.

A candidate of the opposition party Puwersa ng Masa, the former newscaster and TV talk show host even sings in his sorties. He even sings the Tagalog ballad, "Tanging Diyos Lamang ang Nakaka-alam," much to the amusement of the crowd.

Dong, who's also a lawyer, brings with him 16 years of experience in the broadcast media.

Dong denies he has allotted a whopping P150 million for his campaign.

"The figure is nowhere near the truth," he says. "The party spends for me although I also have my own contribution to the campaign budget. But, you'd be surprised, contributions come from friends and relatives."

He has the full support of his erstwhile network, ABS-CBN, for his media campaign. Even **Boots Anson-Roa** represented him in a rally in Bulacan. Boots's daughter **Chiqui Roa** is married to Dong's younger brother **Robbie**.

Recently, Dong expressed deep concern over the government's plan to drop the entertainment sector from the list of industries eligible for tax breaks and other incentives. He noted that this shows the present administration's low regard for the development of culture and the arts.

He said the decision by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) to exclude the movie, TV and music industry from the Investments Priority Plan (IPP) will obstruct the development of the local entertainment sector.

"Just when our entertainment industry needs it most, the government decides to scrap the package of incentives under the IPP," Dong says. "How can Philippine culture and arts flourish when the government itself does not make any effort to help the industry?"

The Neda reportedly removed the entertainment sector from the IPP following Malacañang's instructions to trim the list of projects that will receive government incentives under the IPP.

DESSA. Admirable vocal prowess.

Dessa gets 'Respect'

COMPOSER-lyricist **Levi Celerio** would have been the proudest after hearing **Dessa**'s vocally challenging version of "Saan Ka Man Naroroon." The song has been performed and recorded by other artists, but forgive us for saying that Dessa's rendition is the best so far.

The diminutive belter included the stirring Tagalog classic piece in her new album, "Respect," from the Premium Label of Star Records.

We heard Dessa sing the song live during the recent launch of the album and her singing gave us goose bumps.

Her admirable vocal prowess all the more enhanced the melody of the love song, which was given new arrangement by **Egay Gonzales**

Too bad "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" isn't the carrier track of the 12-track album. Doesn't the song sound radio-friendly enough for it to be released as a single? It would have become a hit all over again. Instead, the recording company chose an English original, "Heartbreaker."

Trust Dessa to give each song, Tagalog classic or not, full treatment with her incredible vocal range. The album contains more originals like "Suffer Like This," "Mahal Kita," "Never Fall in Love Again" and "Love a Love."

Dessa also gives new takes to previous hits, including **Zsa Zsa Padilla**'s upbeat ditty, "Point of No Return."

Other revivals in the album are "Hey, Look at the Sun," "Alone Again Naturally" and "Respect."

Dessa duets with **Rannie Raymundo** in the Metropop 2000 song entry, "Noon, Ngayon."

Completing the album is the song "No Less," which gave Dessa the best interpreter award in the 4th Asia Song Festival in 1999.

Although she has been visible in the live performance scene and also on TV, Dessa does not have a hit single. We trust that her Star Records album will give Dessa just that, a hit.

We always believed in Dessa's talent from the first time we heard her sing in the now-defunct Pulse Disco in Makati. She has managed to sustain her career and steer it to the right direction through the proper guidance of her long-time manager, **Boy Abunda**.

We heard that Dessa has never been a difficult talent to handle. Even the staff of Backroom, Boy's talent management office, hardly ever complained about her all these years.

Off camera, she keeps a down-to-earth lifestyle, but when it comes to work she's a true professional.

PUNO. Being from TV gave him a big edge.

Dessa is also not afraid of taking risks. Last year, she made her theater debut when she played the first-ever female Pontius Pilate in the hit musical, "Jesus Christ Superstar," directed by **Bobby Garcia**.

Once dubbed the front-act queen, she has performed in the concerts of foreign artists such as **Patti Austin, Mike Francis, Deniece Williams** and **Color Me Badd**.

Dessa has no ego or superstar delusions. She simply loves to sing and she's at her best when doing it.

Florante's back with music from his heart

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

HE no longer sports his trademark long locks and wide-brimmed hat, and he has exchanged his wooden clogs, *bakya*, for more conventional footwear.

But after 15 years of being out of the music world, Florante is bent on proving that he still has what it takes to be one of the country's premier musicians and songwriters, and more.

Florante says in an interview that he arrived from the United States some weeks back and is now preparing to complete his latest album, "Bayan at Pag-Ibig."

The all-original compilation will feature five songs that talk about love of country and five pure love songs.

"I believe that I owe it to myself to do another album," he says. "I don't believe in retirement. I don't want to be like the others who fade away from the music scene after one hit song. I want my music to be timeless."

Florante remembers when he used to record his own songs and distribute cassette tapes himself. He asked people to play his songs in movie houses, on board the old Love Bus and even at the Rizal Park.

His efforts paid off. Fourteen years after he started playing professionally as a session artist, he came out with his first single, "Pinay."

This was followed by a string of hits that include "Handog," "Sana" (popularized by Kristina Paner) and "Ako'y Pinoy," all of which have become karaoke bar staples.

"My goal is always to produce something better than the previous album," he says. "I am not sure if they will be hits but I always try to share something that is from the heart."

He says he derives inspiration from everyday, simple life. He honed his guitar playing skills from more than 30 years as a professional musician, which is amazing considering that he cannot read a note or a music sheet.

"I think I would be able to write more songs and play more melodies if I knew how to read notes," he says.

GUITAR MAN Florante promises his new album is better than his previous one.

"Bayan at Pag-Ibig" is his 10th album since his first album in 1977, "Mga Tula at Awitin," from JEM records.

He is particularly excited about the new album because he chose reconciliation as the theme of his nationalistic songs, including one titled "Agwat."

But love songs will always be in his repertoire. There is one song in the works, he says, that should evoke long lost romantic feelings in the hearts of the listeners.

Florante's fans can listen to his new songs, as well as reminisce with him, in his May 26 homecoming concert at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City, his first major performance since 1986 when he left the Philippines for the US.

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SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50 11:00	LUCKY NUMBERS - P 13 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 11:50, 2:05, 4:30, 6:35, 8:50 11:00

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'Loren' airs final episode

ABS-CBN's special monthly documentary, "Loren," bids viewers goodbye in this Saturday's telecast, 11 p.m. The final episode, "Huling Paraiso," tackles an issue that is close to Sen. Loren Legarda's heart: environmental protection and eco-tourism.

Written by Roy C. Iglesias, "Huling Paraiso" takes the viewers on a journey to Palawan, particularly Coron town, Club Paradise, Maricaban Resort and the Calauit Wildlife Sanctuary.

It is also an emotional and sentimental journey for Senator Legarda who got started on her environmental crusade more than a decade ago, when she first set foot on Calauit island as a broadcast journalist for her award-winning TV program "Pep Talk."

"Huling Paraiso" shows Senator Legarda visiting the eco-tourism spots in Northern Palawan.

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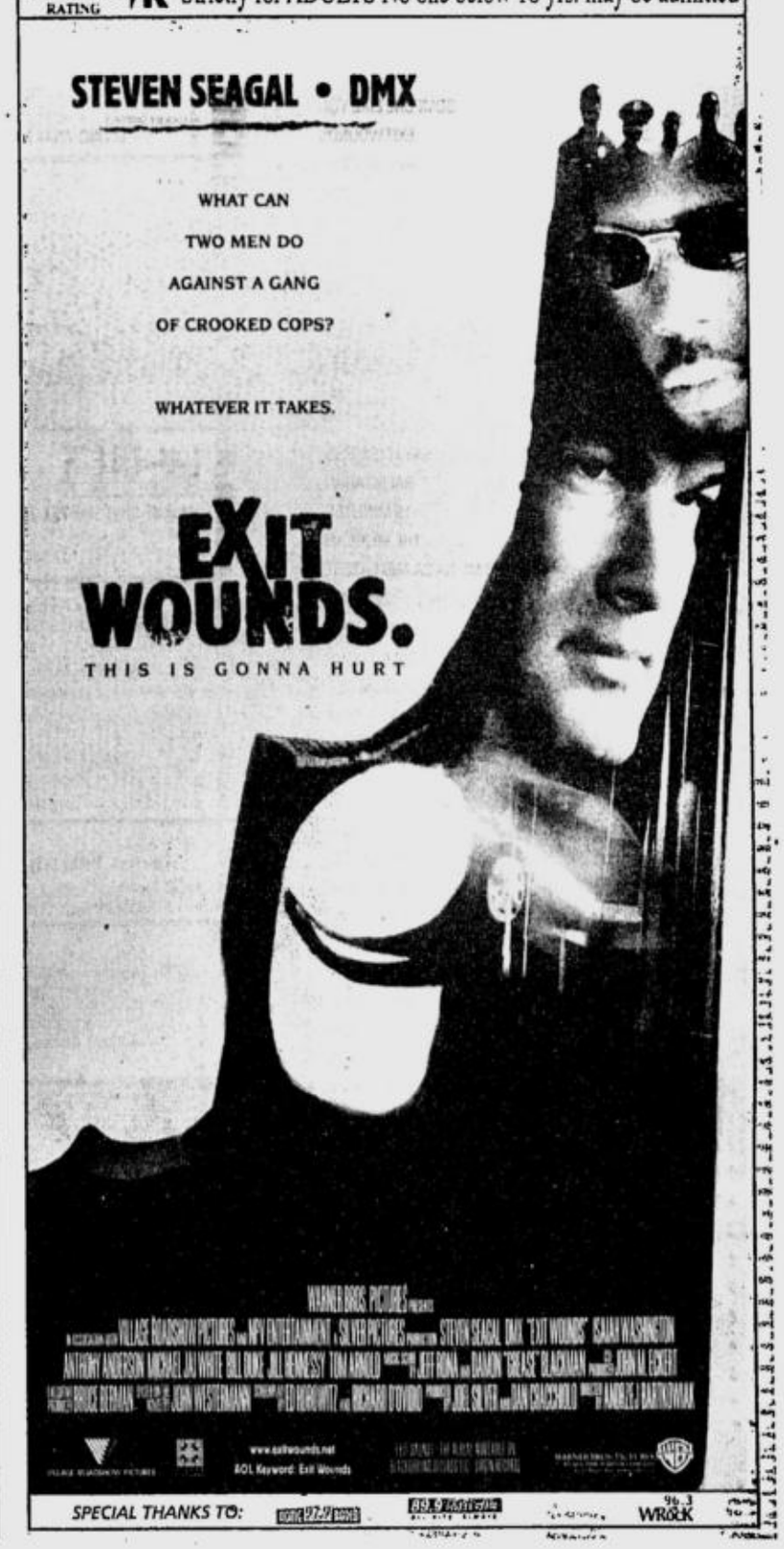


ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The anthem of the lovelorn

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

"BAKIT ngayon ka lang?
Bakit ngayon kung kailan
Ang aking puso'y mayroon ng laman?
Sana'y nalaman ko
Na darating ka sa buhay ko
'Di sana naghintay ako"

That's the opening stanza of the mega-hit duet of **Pops Fernandez** and Freestyle, the carrier single of Freestyle's live album.

Written by **Ogie Alcasid** and **Aaron Paul del Rosario** and previously used as a theme song for an **Alice Dixon-Christopher de Leon** starrer in the early 1990s, this song has reached unprecedented popularity since the start of this year. Even cell phones use the song's melody as their ringing tone.

The first sentiment expressed in the song is very true. There are people we meet when we've matured whom we wish we had known earlier, or just had an inkling we would eventually meet. Then we'd surely be more prudent and less rash when daring to fall in love.

Priorities change. What was previously the primary consideration, such as good looks and the heat of passion, diminishes in importance when compared to insight and intelligent conversation.

This isn't meant to sound boastful, in fact it's pretty pathetic, but I've heard quite a number of times from men that I was their crush way back when I was between 12 and 15, with bangs and glasses. Now of course they're successful and sure enough of themselves to joke about it. How sad for me because I was too immature to appreciate the admiration and they were too young to have done much about it.

"Ikaw sana ang aking yakap-yakap
Ang iyong kamay lagi ang aking hawak
At hindi kanya. . ."

We had a recent spirited discussion about the merits of this song. We all concluded that so many of the lovelorn claim this as their anthem because it illustrates perfectly all the classic components of a doomed romance. It helps the listener to idealize the memories of what was more than likely a failed attempt at love.

Haven't we all deluded ourselves, at some point in our lives, that we had found the right love but at the wrong time? Wasn't the person who, under circumstances beyond your control, can't be yours the embodiment of all that you'd ever hoped for? Even when we know how dangerous it is to play with fire, rather than shield ourselves, don't we all prolong our exposure until we're scorched and burned?

Rational thought is never a strength of those in love, right? After all, it wouldn't be being in love if it were a safe emotion. It would probably be just a form of affection or compassion.

If it's unexplainable, unreasonable, and ultimately unworkable, then that's the best form of loving for all of us masochists.

If you analyze the lyrics of the previous stanza, and if you were the person who happens to be involved with the one expressing these sentiments, wouldn't it kill you to know that your beloved would rather be locked in a tight embrace with someone else?

But since this was written by two men, couldn't it also have been a psychological tactic to convince the other woman that she's really the one he loves, and every time he holds the hand of his current partner, deep down he's wishing it were her? Suckers that we are when we're in love, we'd even feel sorry for him for the "torture" he has to go through.

"Bakit ngayon ka lang
Dumating sa buhay ko?
Pilit binubuksan ang sarado kong puso.
Ikaw ba ay nararapat sa akin
At siya ba'y dapat ko nang limutin?
Nais kong malaman,
Bakit ngayon ka lang dumating?"

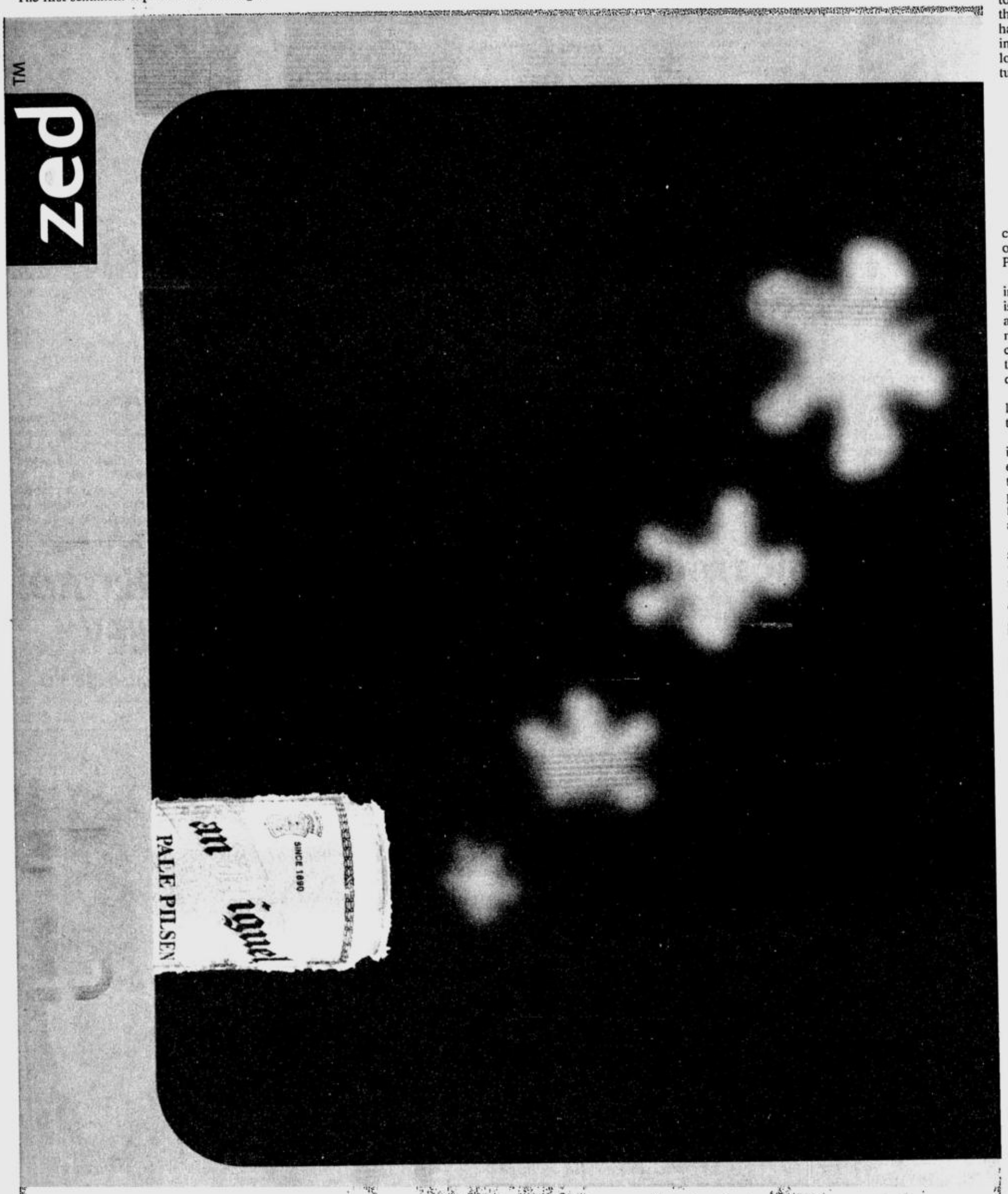
The choice. Everyday we are confronted by choices. PPC or PnM, ABS-CBN or GMA, Globe or Smart, McDo or Jollibee, Tide or Surf, Coke or Pepsi? To stay or to go?

And if you're the one the previous lyrics are being directed at, do you really want someone who isn't yet convinced that you're the one? He's actually blaming you for having the nerve to show up now and wants you to be the one to make the difficult choice for him. For some of us fools in love, though, just the fact that he was confused enough to question himself is proof enough that we are loved.

No matter how hard we resist, we savor these lyrics. We take comfort in the sad message of this song.

We crave the reassurance, because sometimes it really is better to have something or someone else to blame for the failure of a romance, rather than accept the reality that one of you didn't possess an equal sense of trust that's required for love to last. Nothing compares to the pain of acknowledging that he didn't love you enough.

And that's why this song is such a hit. By simply asking an unanswerable question, it provides an escape, a way of reasoning out why things may not and/or did not work out.



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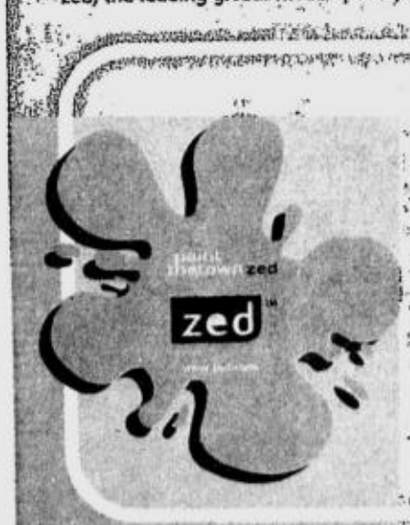

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PUERTO GALERA
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies",
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"SMB Unplugged",
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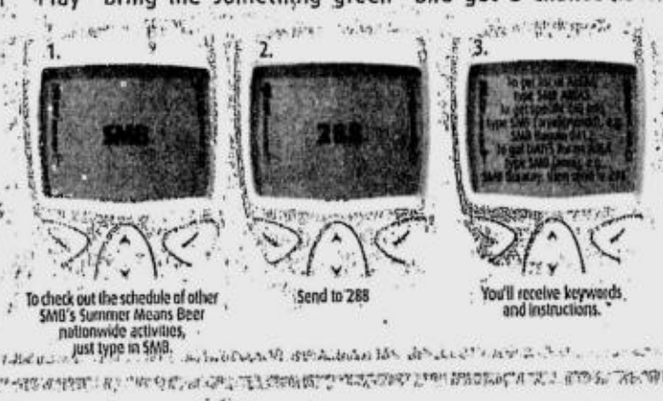

To check out the schedule of other SMB's Summer Means Beer nationwide activities, just type in SMB.

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www.zed.com

JOEY Mead with classic artists who played the music of Vienna in the recent "Chivas When You Know Music Trip Out" party.

World music fills streets of Malate

CHIVAS Regal Scotch whisky in the world recently brought to Manila not just one but five music capitals of the world in an all-night music party held recently in the streets of Malate.

The "Chivas When You Know Music Trip Out" party was the grand launch to the brand's promotion which may entitle a lucky winner to the many hip and happening prizes.

Channel [V] veejay Joey Mead was the evening's party host and savvy travel guide, as she introduced each music capital and performances to the thousands of guests who joined the fun.

The party started in Nakpil Street as it was transformed into the classical stage of Vienna, Austria. Giant candelabras gave glow and framed the stage as the Neo Classic Ensemble played light classical pieces ranging from selections from "La Traviata," "Nessun Dorma" by Puccini and "Time to Say Goodbye" by Andrea Boccelli.

London, England, was the next stop to the "Chivas When You Know Music Trip Out" party as Polyester performed with their rendition of British pop.

Next on this whirlwind adventure was Jamaica as Brownman Revival played that sensational dance rhythm home in the late '60s in a small coastal island Reggae.

Brownbeat All Stars brought the house down as the group performed jazz classics from the fabulous Mardi Gras of New Orleans in the hey day of big bands and Duke Ellington, to the blaring sounds of trumpets and percussion.

A massive foam party capped off the event as Malate was transformed into the world's best party place, Ibiza.

Seen partying were Seagrams bigwigs Nick Carr, vice president for marketing for Asia-Pacific; Peter Prentice, commercial director for Asia Pacific; and Soon Eng, business development director.

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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Gov't revives plan to sell SMC stake

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GOVERNMENT is reviving plans to bid out the 27-percent sequestered stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. as part of a compromise being worked out with the group of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Social Security System president and SMC board member Vitaliano Nañagas II said he had proposed that the government forge a deal with Cojuangco for the latter to waive his claim on the 27-percent stake in exchange for the withdrawal of all cases filed against him at the Sandiganbayan.

While he stressed he could not claim to represent the government, he said such a proposal was now "being picked up by Malacañang." He also said he had offered to help with the sale of the 27-percent block once a deal with Cojuangco was finalized.

Such a settlement, he said, would finally provide an exit mechanism and at the same time raise around P50 billion for the Macapagal administration.

"The number of board seats should no longer be disputed," Nañagas said, noting that it was more practical to settle the ownership dispute in cash.

Nañagas said the stake was an "attractive buy" because SMC was a good company and that if Cojuangco's group had the money, they could even choose to bid for it.

For his part, Cojuangco's ownership of another 20-percent block in SMC has already been upheld by the court. In the past, he said he was no longer keen on getting more stakes in the conglomerate.

Nañagas said such a compromise might also require the lifting of the sequestration on United Coconut Planters Bank, which administers the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), the repository for taxes imposed on coconut producers or the coconut levy by the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

The 27-percent SMC stake purchased through CIIF is the subject of contention between a group led by Cojuangco and the coconut farmers' confederation and the government.

"It would even be better if the sale of SMC and UCPB shares is done simultaneously," Nañagas said.

During the Estrada regime, a similar compromise that would allow the government to put the remaining 27 percent on the auction block was already forged with Cojuangco but this was not upheld by the Sandiganbayan.

Nañagas said it was a good thing

GOV'T/ B6

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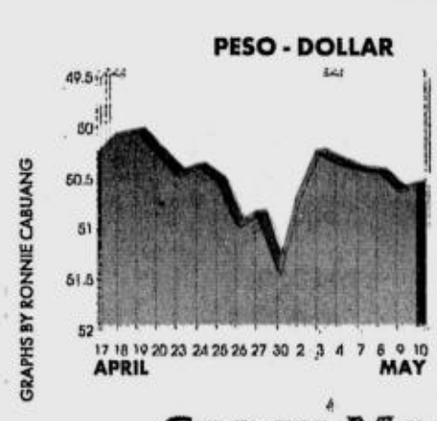

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₱50.59 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 10, 2001

¥122.22 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.22 as of 5 p.m., May 10, 2001

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STOCK MARKET

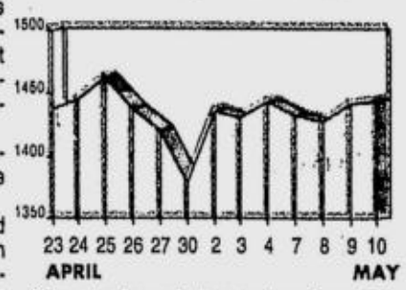
Stocks close 0.1% higher

STOCK prices ended 0.1 percent higher yesterday in cautious trading ahead of general elections next week, which is seen as a referendum on the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The benchmark composite index of the Philippine stock exchange rose 2.08 points to 1,443.85.

Volume turnover reached 397.425 million shares worth P642.979 million from Wednesday's 269 million shares worth P351 million.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Traders said there were investors preferring to stay liquid ahead of the polls while some are positioning on select blue chips. AFP

Ayala, San Miguel finalize Pure Foods sale

SAN Miguel Corp. and Ayala Corp. yesterday announced that they have signed a definitive agreement for San Miguel's purchase of Ayala's entire stake in Pure Foods Corp.

The agreement values the transaction at an equity value of P7 billion or a price per share of P124. The transaction excludes Pure Foods' equity and outstanding advances to Philking (the Burger King franchise operations), MPM Noodles, PT Sinar Pure Foods (tuna operations), and various pieces of real estate. These assets, valued at P1.1 billion, have been transferred to holding companies. The shares of these companies have been declared as property dividends to Pure Foods stockholders as of May 21, 2001.

"We're confident Pure Foods will prove to be an outstanding acquisition. This acquisition is consistent with SMC's strategy to acquire businesses with strategic fit with its core categories, allowing us to consolidate our poultry and feed segments and significantly strengthen our position in the value-added processed meats segment," San Miguel chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, president and CEO of Ayala Corp., said the sale of Pure Foods was a resource allocation decision in support of Ayala's move to strengthen its core businesses. "We have nurtured Pure Foods for more than two decades and have grown the company to a size and level of operations which we consider at par with world-class standards. In the end, we believe that it is to the best interest of Ayala and its shareholders for us to realize the values in Pure Foods at this time."

Upon closing the sale of Ayala's 94-percent holdings in Pure Foods later this month, a tender offer at the same price per share will be made to all other shareholders, in accordance with the Securities Regulation Code.

Pure Foods is among the leading branded food companies in the Philippines. Its principal lines of business are processed meats, poultry and feeds, flour milling and hog raising. The company also has a processed meats joint venture business in Indonesia.

San Miguel is the Philippines' largest food, beverage and packaging company with major facilities in the Philippines, Southeast Asia, China and Australia. The company's products enjoy leadership positions in their respective markets.

Combined, San Miguel and Pure Foods will own a portfolio of leading brands capable of delivering strong volume growth and improved margins. Pure Foods is the market leader in the processed meats and flour categories, holding an estimated 50 percent of the local refrigerated meats market and 17-percent share of the flour milling industry. San Miguel's dominance in the food industry extends to the feeds, dairy and poultry segments of the market.

Together with Pure Foods, SMC will become the undisputed market leader in the country's fast growing food industry, commanding two-thirds of the refrigerated/processed meat market, and over a third of the poultry and feeds industries. With its vast nationwide distribution network, San Miguel is well positioned to expand the reach of Pure Foods products in the Philippines and potentially overseas.

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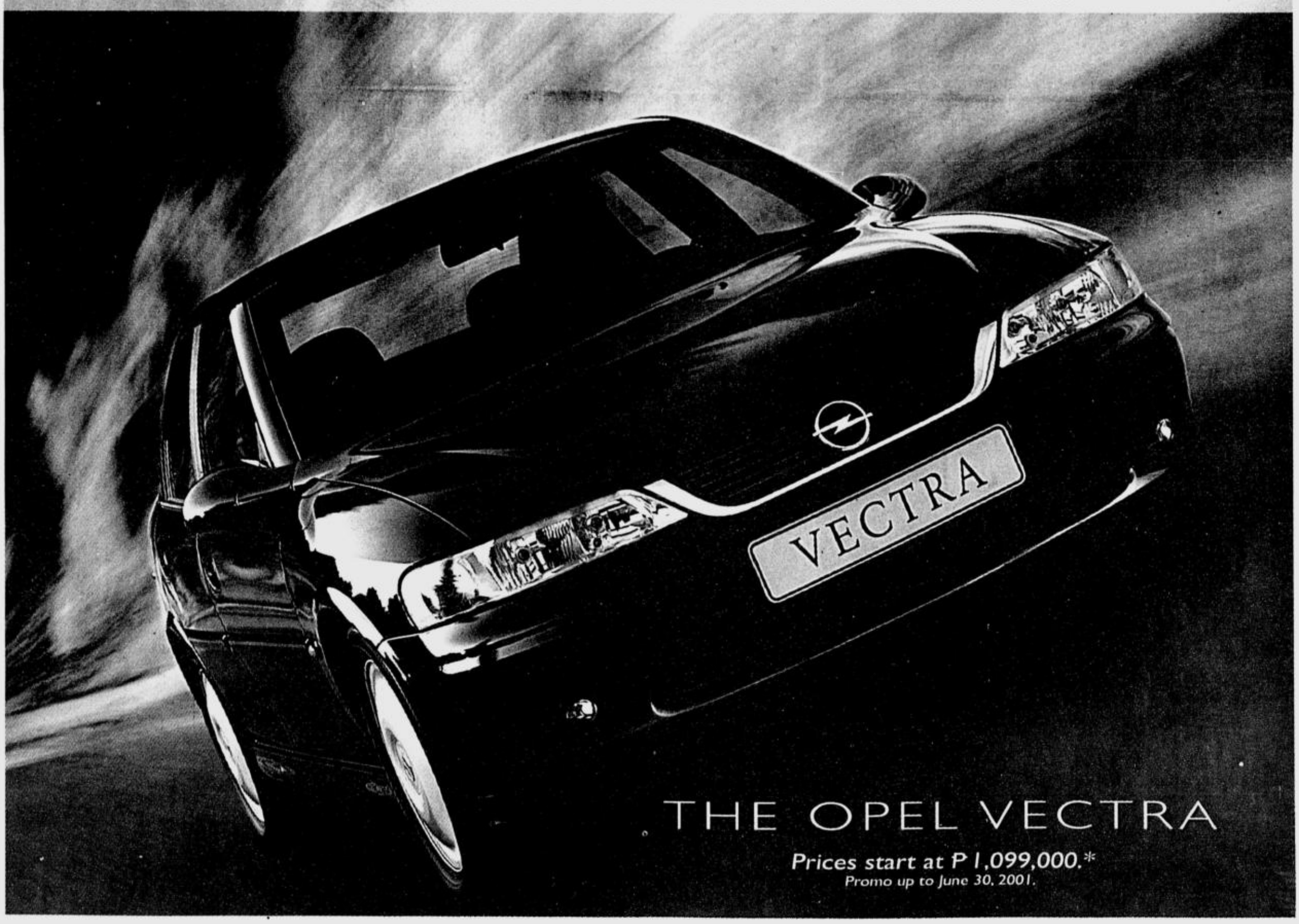

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Equitable plans to sell ₱500M in bad loans, assets

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

EQUITABLE PCI Bank plans to initially sell P500 million of its bad loans and non-performing assets in order to improve bank profitability, incoming Equitable PCI Bank president and chief executive Deogracias Vistan told reporters Thursday.

Vistan, who will assume his post at the bank on June 1, said he wanted to explore whether the bank can make a deal with any of the three foreign financial institutions that have expressed interest in putting up an asset management company and special purpose vehicle.

He identified the three financial institutions as US-based investment bank Lehman Brothers, Deutsche Bank and international consulting firm Arthur Andersen.

Vistan explained that the three firms were willing to shell out cash to buy and/or manage certain non-performing assets of the bank.

"Experiences in other countries have shown that such a plan is feasible. I want to explore it to reduce our NPLs and/or NPAs," he added.

Vistan also said that he would make deposit recovery a priority over raising additional capital for the bank.

He also bared plans to cut down the bank's outstanding P19-billion emergency loan from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas within one year.

Equitable PCI Bank earlier planned to raise P5 billion to P10 billion through convertible bonds to be issued to shareholders to enable the bank hit net income of P600 million to P1 billion this year.

The bank suffered from a severe liquidity crunch from November to January forcing it to borrow P30 billion in the form of liquidity assistance from the BSP. Since the start of the year, it has paid about P11 billion of the P30-billion loan.

VISTAN

Workers' election issues

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

BEFORE we go to the polls and cast our ballots, there are basic and critical issues that we have to clarify to our candidates and to the entire voting populace. We cannot afford to take risks again and vote blindly without evaluating very carefully the candidates' specific stand on primordial issues affecting both workers and businessmen.

The voters should know what the candidates' positions are on issues about employment, wages and benefits, workers' welfare, labor justice and the overall relationship between labor and capital. The candidates have to define, declare and explain their stand on the relationship between jobs and incomes, migration and job opportunities, globalization and security of tenure, corruption in government and the quest for expeditious and inexpensive labor justice.

Jobs and justice

The candidates have to fully disclose their positions on generation of job opportunities and protection of job security. They have to declare their stand on the prevailing bias in favor of foreign jobs over domestic jobs. They have to tell us how they will help our OFWs who are constantly being discriminated against, persecuted and exploited in foreign lands. They must have a clear policy direction on employment generation and on the problems of workers' migration and brain drain.

They have to lay down their platforms on how to cushion the impact of trade liberalization and globalization, of mergers and restructuring on jobs. They have to present a viable program for the absorption of new entrants in the labor force numbering no less than half a million every year. They must be ready with manpower development strategies to enhance our workers' competitive edge in a global economy.

Wages and welfare

Those who want our votes should tell us in plain and simple terms how they intend to legislate measures to balance the need for living wage and the imperative to stabilize inflation and control the cost of living. They must explain how to strike a balance between promotion of job opportunities and wage enhancement. They should present a viable formula of providing safety nets to the informal marginalized sectors in the labor force. And if they have brilliant ideas, where they are intending to get the funding.

The candidates should discuss medical care for workers, housing that is affordable, state insurance fund that will not be diverted, health, safety and labor standards that won't be sabotaged by corrupt labor inspectors in the payroll of dishonest employers. Talk is cheap. They have to write their commitments and sign them in blood.

Should GSIS and SSS be abolished?

Those who vie for Senate or Congress seats should present a doable approach to the two white elephants, the GSIS and the SSS, which have been shown to be capable of diverting the workers' trust fund into irrelevant ventures. The candidates should tell us whether they will move to abolish, restructure or merge the two systems which are until now preoccupied with their investments in San Miguel and other blue chips corporations rather than on the state insurance of government and private workers.

The SSS and GSIS have been made milking cows of corrupt presidents and their cronies. How will the candidates curb these despicable act of treachery to the workers?

Labor justice still delayed

With the single exception of Roy Señeres who works hard to achieve the dream of a speedy, expeditious and inexpensive labor justice, the arbiters and commissioner still cannot resolve labor disputes within 12 months. The workers have to wait for years to get justice, if at all. The employers have to pay full back wages for all the years of inefficiency of our labor-dispute settlement system. What then would the future senators and congressmen do in relation to these issues.

Corruption and ineptitude

What are the candidates' plan of action to fight corruption and inefficiencies in government service? What platforms are aimed at addressing the systems that encourage graft and lack of client orientation? What measures shall improve the quality of public service? The candidates cannot remain silent on such monumental issues. They either have a plan or none at all. So that we will know whom to vote for.

Workers for new politics

The workers constitute a vital component of the civil society. They should now embrace the new politics, which is the politics of issues and principles rather than personalities, the politics of values and ideology rather than parties and partisanship. Thus, we should screen very carefully the true colors of candidates lest we commit the recurrent mistakes of the "*masa*" who are inclined to opt for popularity rather than competence.

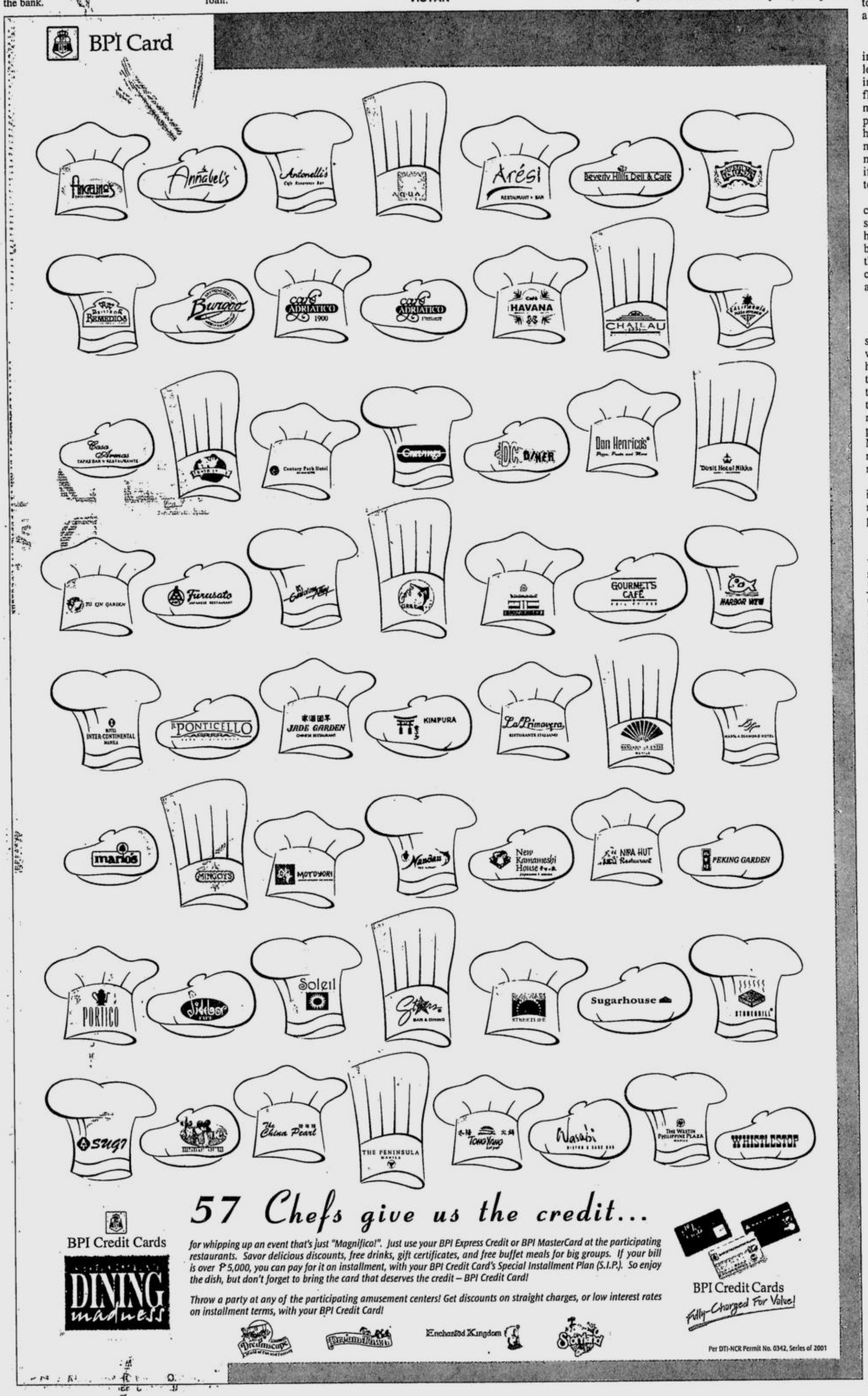
Come election time, we should exercise utmost wisdom and discernment and not be misled by false propaganda. Every single candidate should be scrutinized based on his or her background, track record, known biases and prejudices, declared advocacy and his overall work ethic and character.

Workers' wisdom and vigilance

We are no longer naïve or gullible. We have acquired a new sense of maturity and wisdom. We won't be bought with a few corrupt pesos or some stolen kilos of rice. We will vote according to our conscience, our sense of honor and patriotism. We will vote conscious of the grave implications of our decision and we will cast our ballot for the sake of our children and the future of our nation.

And we will safeguard our ballot. We won't allow terrorism to rob us of our suffrage. We won't allow threats or bribery to sabotage the future of our country. The number one issue that we will be vigilant about is the issue of our freedom to decide for the future of our cherished country and people. We will fight for and be ready to die for that freedom.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)



Candy Corner: A store laced with new and sweet concepts

By Christine A. Gaylican

SUCCESS STORY

CANDY Corner is the first retail confectionery store in the Philippines, and the couple who started it has taken the business more seriously than ever.

Entrepreneurs Ricky and Rosemarie "Bubu" Andres were local distributors of imported toys and stationeries when they stumbled upon the idea of retailing different candies.

Back in 1995, the Ayalas were selecting new applications for tenants for their Glorietta 2 mall. Ricky and Bubu were among the lucky ones who were given a chance by the Ayalas to put up their new store concept.

The husband-and-wife team gathered their resources to come up with an initial capital and inventories for their candy store, which then amounted to about P250,000.

"We even made use of some of our wedding cash gifts for the business and, of course, some of our earnings from our toy distribution business," says Bubu.

It was a gamble that quickly paid off.

Bubu said what made the business click was the Filipino's love for retail, or "*tinge*."

"There's that Pinoy mentality for '*tinge*.' We want to try a little of everything until we distinguish what we are really craving for when it comes to food," says Bubu.

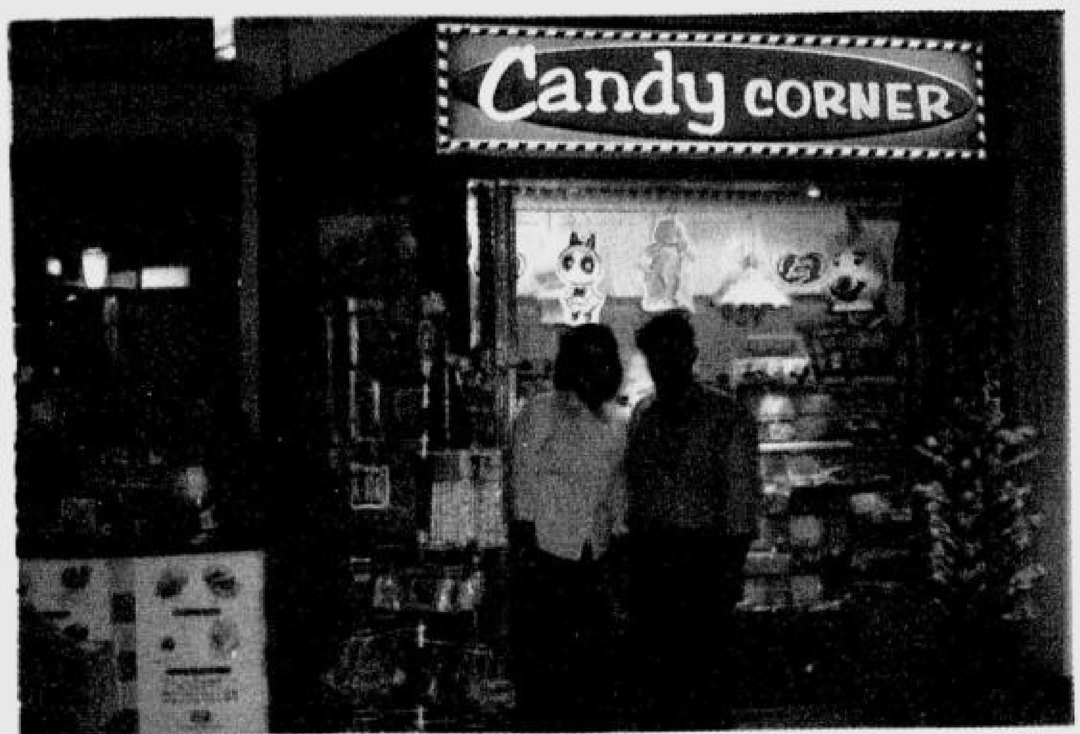
A year after the success of their first branch at the Glorietta, Candy Corner was able to put up a second store at the SM Megamall.

In 1997 and 1998, Candy Corner went through some tough times because it was importing its raw materials. During these years, the peso fell sharply because of an Asia-wide currency meltdown, so the store's expenses went up while earnings shrank.

Ricky and Bubu said they had to look for cheaper raw materials and had to negotiate with their suppliers for discounts on sales volume.

"We maintained our price of at least P39.50 per 100 grams and had to contend with little margins. We negotiated with our suppliers to get discounts for big volumes that we acquired," says Bubu, Candy Corner's general manager.

Ricky, the company president, said apart from the peso's decline, they also had to deal with higher wages and an increase in rental fees.



BUBU and Ricky Andres and their "baby," Candy Corner.

Despite the odds, Candy Corner survived and even managed to grow. It now has 28 stores in and outside Metro Manila, six of which are franchise stores.

The company is now promoting the Candy Corner franchise.

"We are going into franchising because we, at present, already have 20 stores that are company owned. We want the operations to be closely monitored to have higher sales," says Ricky.

"You would need to invest some P130,000 to P200,000 for a franchise, depending on the product lines you would want to carry," he adds.

Bubu reveals that on a good week, a Candy Corner store can sell as much as P40,000 to P45,000 and not less than P20,000.

As for their plans to expand to the provinces, Bubu says that they are now repacking some products so they can distribute them to stores in the provinces.

So what is Bubu and Ricky's formula for success?

Bubu says it is important to master the ins and outs of one's business. She says since their target markets are both adults and kids, it is important to get as much variety in the selection of flavors and candy types.

"In this business, we could settle for just a few flavors, colors or shapes, or just stick with the usual favorites. But instead, we make sure that every time you come back to Candy Corner, there will always be something new to try," she says.

Candy Corner carries some 100 varieties of candies in stock and has 2,000 products to choose from, including gummie bears, worms, chocolate-coated sunflower seeds, chocolate raisins and almonds.

"You need to constantly create innovations in any business you are into. It would help in the marketing especially as competitors are trying to edge you out," says Bubu. "One can't stop from improving."

She says that their display module cart has been changed 10 to 12 times.

Ricky and Bubu say that, as entrepreneurs, they hope that credit lines must be put up by the government for small to medium-scale businesses.

Gov't reports 2.39% growth in agri sector

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LOCAL agriculture sector grew by 2.39 percent in the first quarter, exceeding last year's 0.85-percent rate.

The Department of Agriculture reported that all agricultural subsectors, including crops, livestock, poultry and fishery, reported growth.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Segfredo Serrano said in a new conference that the crops subsector bounced back from last year's slump, though there remained a slowdown in the production of palay, tobacco, abaca and other fiber crops, legumes, and rootcrops. The crops subsector grossed P159.4 billion at current prices, he reported.

Serrano said should this trend continue, a 3-percent growth could easily be achieved by the subsector and conntribute to the recovering Philippine economy. This, he said, was notwithstanding the threat of the El Nino phenomenon.

Agriculture officials are expecting a long dry spell associated with the El Niño to hit in the first quarter of 2002.

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Microsoft

Urban's major depositors seek convertible bond plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

SAN MIGUEL Corp., Manila Electric Co. and Petron Corp. would subscribe to convertible bonds rather than convert into equity their P3 billion in combined deposits and investments in Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc., government regulators said yesterday.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno said the three companies, among the country's biggest companies, said their charters barred them from buying equities of companies not related to their operations.

Nazareno said San Miguel, Meralco and Petron were also considering maintaining their deposits and investments but in the form of five-year time deposits.

Social Security System chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas II said the three companies were more interested in the convertible bond option.

The SSS has already committed to infuse some P600 million as soon as Urban Bank merges with its "white knight," the Export and Industry Bank and a group of small depositors.

Nañagas said the SSS should earn at least P500 million from this investment.

Under the proposal sent to PDIC by the ExportBank and the National Association of Urban Bank and UII Depositors and Creditors, or Naud, Urban Bank and Urbancorp would be integrated as a commercial bank and capitalized at P3.5 billion. It would then be merged with ExportBank within the year.

ExportBank is working on convincing San Miguel, Meralco and Petron to convert 25 percent of their P3-billion deposit in Urban Bank into equity. Naud, meanwhile, offered to persuade Urban Bank's other depositors to convert 10 percent of their deposits, estimated at P5 billion, into equity and accept a three-year restructuring of the balance.

If this plan pushes through, Urbancorp would be merged with Urban Bank. ExportBank would infuse P300 million in initial capital into the new bank. After full provisioning for non-performing loans, Urban Bank's capital base, inclusive of all the capital infusions and conversions into equity, should reach P3.7 billion.

In six months, Exportbank is hoping to merge with Urban Bank—since it is the one listed on the stock exchange—as the surviving entity. The bank that will come out of this merger will be renamed the Export and Industry Bank and will have a capital base of at least P6 billion.

PDIC has given ExportBank and Naud until May 15 to conclude rehabilitation talks with the shareholders and depositors of Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

PDIC's Nazareno said ExportBank and Naud would have to sign by May 15 an agreement that would commit the Social Security System into infusing some P600 million in fresh capital into Urban Bank.

PDIC has required that any residual value from the rehabilitation, estimated to amount to P817 million by the fifth and sixth year, should only be distributed to shareholders once all depositors and creditors are paid.

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Shell to keep industry lead

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. said yesterday it would try to maintain its lead in the local oil industry after dislodging Petron Corp. in the first quarter.

Shell spokesperson Oscar Reyes said the firm would keep improving its products and services, but its consumers would still determine who would be the industry leader.

Reyes said while they planned to do this, other players were also going to be aggressive in the market.

The oil firm has gained the lead in the local market with a 38.3-percent share, according to a report released by the Petroleum Institute of the Philippines.

Reyes attributed the gain to their aggressive marketing and improved margins.

He said they were also successful in containing structural costs.

"We were not hit so badly by fluctuations in the market during the first quarter," Reyes added.

Shell did not move prices of its products in the first three months.

Reyes also said Shell tentatively placed its net profits for that period at P277 million compared to the year-ago net loss of P200 million.

For its part, Petron downplayed Shell's capture of the No. 1 spot, saying it was not a situation they expected to remain in the long run.

Petron corporate communications manager Virginia A. Ruivivar said they deliberately gave up some of their domestic accounts and concentrated on exports, which gave them more earnings.

While Petron trailed Shell with 37 percent of the market, it reported a net income of P348 million for the first quarter as against a net loss of P331 million last year. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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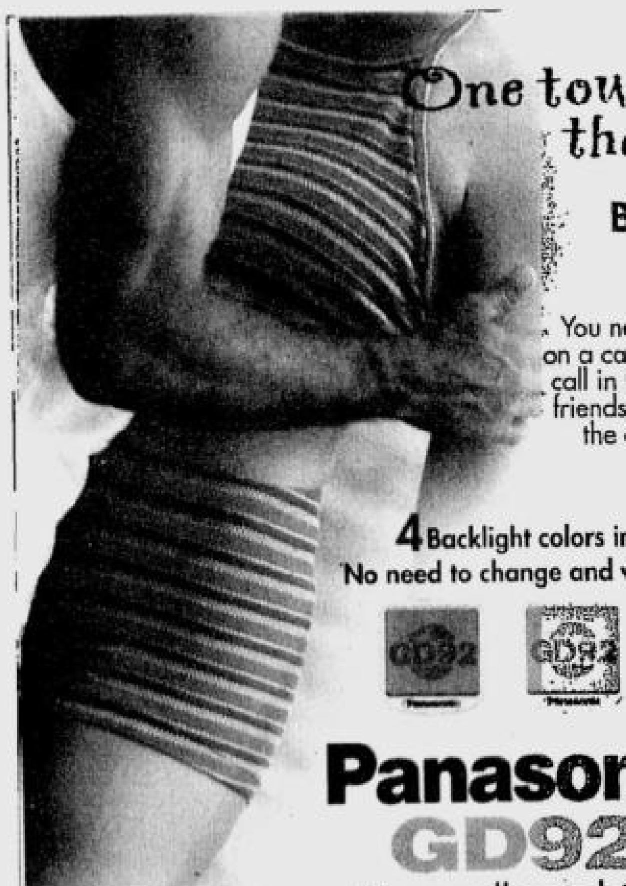

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
MANILA

IN RE: MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL/CITY/DISTRICT/ PROVINCIAL BOARDS OF CANVASSERS AND SENDING OF NOTICES TO POLITICAL PARTIES, ORGANIZATIONS OR COALITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 14, 2001 ELECTIONS.

BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.	Commissioner

PROMULGATED:
9 May 2001

x------------------------------------x

RESOLUTION NO. 4167

WHEREAS, Section 9 of Resolution No. 3848 promulgated 30 March 2001 provides: Notice of Meeting of the Board not later than May 9, 2001, the Chairman of the Board of Canvassers shall give written notice to all members thereof and to each candidate political party fielding candidates and parties, organizations/coalitions participating under the party list system of the date, time and place of the canvassing which shall be held in the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan/ Panglungsod/Bayan, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

WHEREAS, under Section 9 of Resolution No. 3848 failure to give notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the Board of Canvassers constitutes an election offense;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and R.A. No. 6646, has RESOLVED as it hereby RESOLVES, to amend Section 9 of Resolution No. 3848 which should read as follows: That all Municipal/ City/Provincial/District Board of Canvassers shall meet at 6:00 o'clock in the evening of May 14, 2001 at the session hall of the Sangguniang Bayan/Panglungsod/Panlalawigan for purposes of convening the Board and the publication of this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation as well as the posting of notices of canvassing in conspicuous places such as those in Bulletin Boards of City Hall/Municipal Buildings or building where canvass will be held shall constitute adequate notice to all members of the Board and others who need to be notified thereof.

Notices of the canvassing shall be posted in the offices of the Election Officers/Provincial Election Supervisors, as the case may be, and in conspicuous places in the building where the canvass will be held";

WHEREAS, Section 10 of Resolution No. 3848 further provides: "Convening of the Board - The Board shall meet at 6:00 o'clock in the evening of election day at the designated place to receive the Election Returns or the Certificates of Canvass, as the case may be, and to immediately canvass those that have already been received. It shall meet continuously from day to day until the canvass is completed, and may adjourn only for the purpose of awaiting the other Election Returns or Certificates of Canvass;

WHEREAS, there are numerous sectoral parties, organizations/coalitions under the party list system, the addresses of which are unknown and cause the difficulty of sending notices of the convening of the board of canvassers;

The Executive Director shall implement this resolution.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and give this Resolution the widest publicity and dissemination possible.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its promulgation.

SO ORDERED.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

(ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS)
MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

Chase OKs $100-M loan to RP

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo has sealed a deal with Chase Manhattan Bank for a $100-million loan facility for the national government.

In a letter to Chase Manhattan Bank, Romulo said the Department of Finance has approved the offer of the bank to underwrite a private placement worth $100 million that will mature in 2003.

Romulo noted, however, that the government may choose to tap as much as $200 million from the facility to be opened by the bank. Based on the letter, the deal was approved in late April.

A government source said the loan deal was supposed to be completed within May, but Chase Manhattan had requested that the fund-raising exercise be postponed because of what it perceived as mounting political tension running up to the May 14 elections.

The deal, according to a government source, is being reviewed on a weekly basis and would likely push through after the elections.

The loan would carry a yield of 2.9 to 3.1 percentage points over the London interbank offered rate of 4.76 percent. But after recent developments, the supposedly favorable rates may change.

Prevailing uncertainties on the domestic front have made any foreign borrowing for the Philippine government more expensive.

The country is expected to borrow a total of P191 billion this year, 40 percent of which would come from abroad.

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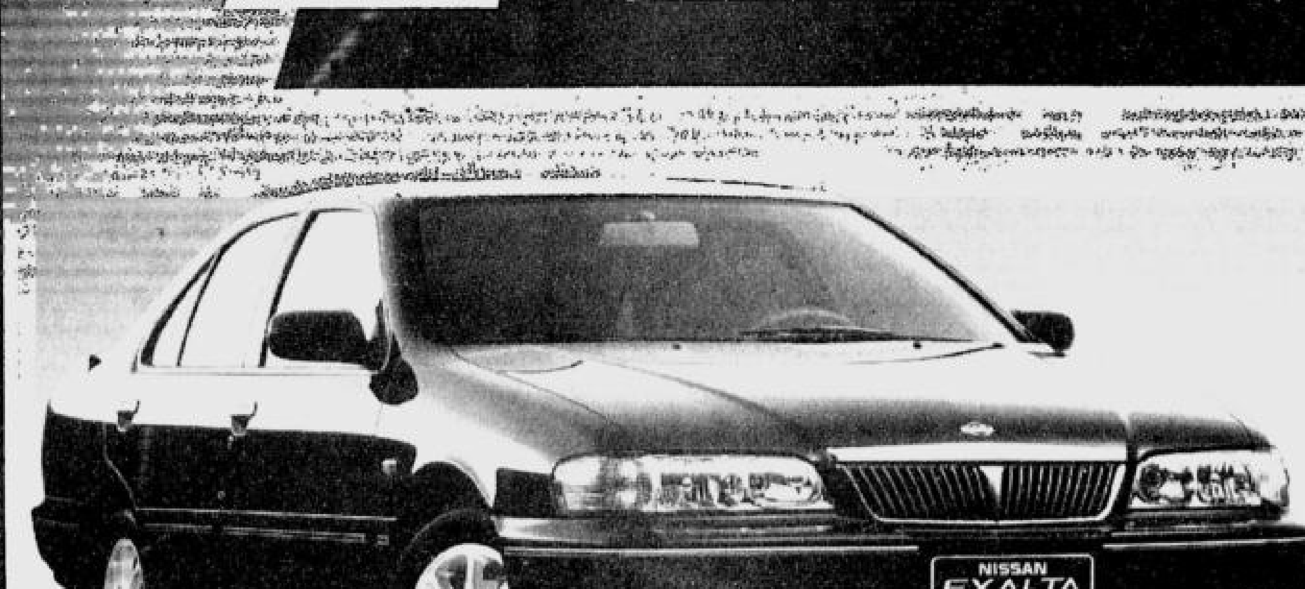

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NISSAN CEBU DIST.
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Politics spoiling Urban Bank re-opening

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

(Fifth of a series)

SO what will happen to Urban Bank Inc. now? Nearly everyone involved—the owners, government regulators, and the creditors and depositors—want the bank re-opened as quickly as possible. If plans don't miscarry, the bank may again be back in business by July 1 this year.

What Urban Bank has got going for is that it now has two "white knights." The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is currently entertaining one offer from the Export and Industry Bank and a group of small depositors to rehabilitate Urban Bank and its investment house, Urbancorp Investments Inc. If, for some reasons, this hits a wall, Bank of Commerce—Urban Bank's first suitor who backed out on the way to the altar—has offered to step in again.

SPECIAL REPORT

Under the proposal sent to PDIC by the ExportBank and the National Association of Urban Bank and UII Depositors and Creditors, or Naud, Urban Bank and Urbancorp would be integrated as a commercial bank and capitalized at P3.5 billion. It would then be merged with ExportBank within the year.

"They are improving on the Bank of Commerce proposal inasmuch as they are looking at converting more deposits into equity," PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said.

Bank of Commerce was Urban Bank's "white knight" until it decided to "step aside" early this year because of "legal issues" that it felt would derail talks to rehabilitate Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

Before it backed out, Bank of Commerce was trying to convince Urban Bank's three major depositors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and the Manila Electric Co.—to convert 25 percent of their P3 billion worth of deposits in Urban Bank into equity.

ExportBank and Naud, whose depositors and investors represent about P5 billion worth of deposits and investments, said they would also work out a similar equity conversion deal with San Miguel, Petron and Meralco. But they also offered to convince the other depositors and creditors or Urban Bank and Urbancorp to convert 10 percent of their deposits and investments into equity and to accept a restructuring of the balance over a period of three years.

If this plan pushes through, Urbancorp would be merged with Urban Bank. ExportBank would infuse P300 million in initial capital into the new bank. After full provisioning for non-performing loans, Urban Bank's capital base, inclusive of all the capital infusions and conversions into equity, should reach P3.7 billion.

Deadline

In six months, Exportbank is hoping to merge with Urban Bank, with Urban Bank—since it is the one listed on the stock exchange—as the surviving entity. The bank that will come out of this merger will be renamed the Export and Industry Bank and will have a capital base of at least P6 billion.

PDIC has given ExportBank and Naud until May 15 to conclude rehabilitation talks with the shareholders and depositors of Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

PDIC's Nazareno said ExportBank and Naud would have to sign by May 15 an agreement that would commit the Social Security System into infusing some P600 million in fresh capital into Urban Bank.

As of this writing, the SSS was expected to approve this loan this week. SSS chair Vitaliano Nañagas II said the loan would be a secured three-year convertible loan to be extended to ExportBank after its merger with Urban Bank.

"The SSS has some P290 million in investments in Urban Bank. That one will have to be solved in the manner applied to all other shareholders. We're trying to recover that by putting in the extra P600 million," Nañagas said.

If the ExportBank's and Naud's plans do not work out, Bank of Commerce is offering a fallback position.

A senior official, who requested anonymity, said Bank of Commerce said it was still interested in rescuing Urban Bank and Urbancorp should ongoing efforts to bail the two companies out fail.

"We have not lost our interest in Urban Bank. Bank of Commerce merely stepped aside to enable the PDIC to continue with the rehabilitation of Urban Bank, given that our position was the resolution of certain cases filed which, we felt, posed a big risk to us," he said.

Fallback position

He said Bank of Commerce recently received an assurance that the "legal issues" it cited as the reason for its decision to step aside would not derail talks to rehabilitate Urban Bank and Urbancorp. Specifically, he said, it became clear that these cases would not allow former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan to regain control of the bank.

He said Bank of Commerce believed that the ownership of Urban Bank and Urbancorp would not be affected even if these cases are resolved in Borlongan's favor because any agreement will have to be with the consent of the major shareholders, creditors and depositors of Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said Bank of Commerce's renewed interest in bailing out Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp has greatly improved the chances that the shuttered lender and its investment house would escape liquidation and would be able to reopen by July 1.

"We welcome it. At least now we're talking with two groups rather than just one," Buenaventura told the INQUIRER. "It gives us a fallback position and a better chance of not having to liquidate Urban Bank."

Politics

One spoiler to Urban Bank's otherwise bright future is politics.

Apart from "legal issues," Bank of Commerce also had some political considerations when it decided to drop talks to rehabilitate Urban Bank.

Bank of Commerce said it was spooked by an administrative complaint filed by former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan Jr. against Buenaventura, the Bangko Sentral governor, but Borlongan believes the bank's real concern was the change in the country's leadership.

"I did not do anything that compromised the re-opening of Urban. The reality? Bank of Commerce backed out not because of my case. They backed out because we had a new President," he said.

Borlongan said Bank of Commerce sent the Bangko Sentral and PDIC a letter seeking an assurance that the new political climate would

POLITICS/ B8

BORLONGAN

BARTOLOME

BUENAVENTURA

NAZARENO

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, May 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	78	77	78	882,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43.5	45	43.5	45	224,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	206	205	206	169,060
Philippine National Bank	51	51	49	49.5	97,600
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.5	18.75	18.75	59,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	24.5	24.5	98,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	249	250	249	250	400
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1265	1250	1265	4,860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1045	1035	1045	16,650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	690	690	40
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3	3	3	3	3,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	690	700	690	695	152,550
Ivantage Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	120,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	52,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	42	41.5	41.5	188,100
Manila Electric Co. B	57	58	55.5	58	2,446,800
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	7,683,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.14	1.14	804,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.48	1.36	1.4	9,335,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	210,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3	3	2.8	2.8	135,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	514,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	47,000
RFM Corp.	0.91	0.95	0.91	0.95	3,230,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	46	46.5	6,700
San Miguel Corp. B	49	50	49	50	258,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	242,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	1,942,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	648,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	1,800
A. Soriano Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	2,459,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	119,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	24	24	23.75	24	164,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	2,150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	1,200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	400,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.54	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	190,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15.25	15	15	52,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	1,100,000
Manila Jockey Club	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	4,800
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	1,623,700
DMCI Holdings Inc-Pref.	470	470	470	470	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.033	0.034	0.032	0.033	40,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,266,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	16,220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	3,140,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.06	2.08	8,573,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.04	0.065	0.03	0.03	200,600,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	6.9	7,125,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	15,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	1,520,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,300,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,653,070	145,709,735.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	133,686,390	404,307,085.00
PRO	238,624,000	92,214,560.00
Mining	19,970,000	448,600.00
OIL	3,320,000	32,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	397,253,460	642,712,580.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	611.09	UP 1.93
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,965.77	DOWN 1.92
PRO	570.66	UP 1.25
Mining	1,145.95	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.44	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	751.92	UP 0.30
Composite	1,443.85	UP 2.08

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 82; NO. OF TRADES: 2,083

Gov't to sell stake in Meralco next month

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MACAPAGAL administration, through its disposition arm Privatization Management Office, is planning to sell the state's minority holdings in Manila Electric Co. through a public bidding next month.

PMO head Renato Valdecantos said the plan to sell a 10-percent stake in Meralco was meant to raise at least P5 billion in additional revenues for the government.

These shares represent the 7.7 percent held by PMO and the 2.3 percent held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government. The shares were previously owned by Marcos brother-in-law Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

Valdecantos said the PMO would discuss with other government financial institutions for a joint sale of their combined 13.5 percent in Meralco, a move which could attract more interest in the shares.

The Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System have a combined 4-percent stake in Meralco; Land Bank of the Philippines has 7.5 percent, and Philippine Health Insurance Corp. has 1.7 percent.

The sale in June, however, could be affected by the outcome of Congress deliberation on the proposed power-restructuring bill. The government has been forced to defer its planned sale of the Meralco shares in the past because investors wanted to see the final version of the power reform bill first before making a bid for the utility giant.

CURRENCIES

May 10, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.129305	1.000000	50.4820
Japan	Yen	0.009248	0.008189	0.4134
United Kingdom	Pound	1.605759	1.421900	71.7804
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144796	0.128217	6.4727
Switzerland	Franc	0.648803	0.574515	29.0027
Canada	Dollar	0.733792	0.649773	32.8018
Singapore	Dollar	0.619476	0.548546	27.6917
Australia	Dollar	0.589623	0.522111	26.3572
Bahrain	Dinar	2.995665	2.652661	133.9116
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301124	0.266645	13.4608
Brunei	Dollar	0.618458	0.547645	27.6462
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000090	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.024793	0.021954	1.1083
UAE	Dirham	0.307503	0.272294	13.7459
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.000768	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.885500	44.7018
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.452749	22.8557
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134994	6.8148
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.401822	20.2848
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064352	3.2486
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021951	1.1081
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000457	0.0231
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.148930	7.5183
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004417	0.2230
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005322	0.2687
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.021951	1.1081
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.124353	56.7596

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. subscribed for additional 850,000 series "J" class "I" preferred stocks of **Pilipino Telephone Corp.** at a price of P1,000 per share.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price that fell from P0.08 to P0.048 per share.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. denied reports it was considering delisting its shares in the local bourse but it is true that the company is planning to list one of its subsidiaries, **ICTSI International Holdings Corp.** in 2003.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. will increase its authorized capital stock from P100 million to P400 million.*Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Gov't revives plan to sell SMC stake

(From page B1)

that such a deal did not push through during the ousted regime. Although such a compromise was a win-win situation in principle, he said it was dangerous if it were done under the Estrada regime, which has been accused of brokering a lot of corporate deals from which certain cronies allegedly benefited.

In this case, Nañagas said a transparent bidding of the SMC stake would finally end the dispute that has long been weighing down on investor sentiment on this blue chip issue.

In Nov. 8 last year, Estrada signed EO 313 setting up the P50-billion coconut levy trust fund for the benefit of coconut farmers. The fund was supposed to be financed with proceeds from the sale of the 27-percent stake in SMC out of a total 47-percent share in the company seized by the government in 1986. This, however, was not junked by the Sandiganbayan.

There are some speculations, however, that SMC itself could use its cash hoard to acquire the 27-percent stake if there were no major acquisitions in sight.

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INVITATION TO SUBMIT NOMINEES FOR GOLDEN PLOW AWARD

DAR is going to celebrate June as CARP month. It will be marked by an awarding ceremony for The Presidential Golden Plow awardees. DAR is inviting all qualified nominating entities to submit their nomination for The Award. Deadline for submission of nominees is on May 22, 2001. Please address your nominations to:

Hon. Hernani A. Braganza
Secretary
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Quezon City
Attention: Personnel Division

A. Background:
The Presidential Golden Plow Award is an award that recognizes the vision, reason, and courage of those who selflessly render extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution to humanity in the implementation of the land reform and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform. This award recognizes the service or contribution of individuals, groups of individuals or institutions with far-reaching consequences and emulative effect to Man and Society.

B. Scope of the Award:
(1) Public Service - Extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution for the public good and interest by a private citizen or individual, group of private citizens or individuals, or private institutions;
(2) International Understanding - Extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution in the promotion and advancement of international amity through mutual help and assistance by individuals, group of individuals or institutions whether private, governmental, domestic or foreign;
(3) Government Service - Extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution for the public good and interest in any field of land reform and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform by any officer or employee of the government of the Republic of the Philippines

There are three (3) categories of awards for every field of endeavor, namely: (a) individual; (b) group of individuals, and (c) institutional.

There is one award for each of the three fields of endeavor. These are: (a) one award for Public Service; (b) one award for International Understanding, and (c) one award for Government Service.

An award may be joint between individuals, group of individuals, institutions, or between any two of the three categories or among the three categories which/who are considered by the DAR, upon recommendation of the Committee on Awards, to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.

C. Criteria For Selection:
1. Performance of an extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution for the public good and interest, specifically in the furtherance of the objective of land and agrarian reform.
2. Evidence of sustained effect of contribution or work performance over and above the normal duty requirements of a given individual, group of individuals, or institutions.
3. Contribution to the cause of land and agrarian reform or Performance of extraordinary and outstanding service is of such far-reaching consequence and emulative effect on Man and Society.

D. Procedure:
The award is open to any person, group of persons, regardless of sex, race, creed or nationality; or institutions, whether private or governmental, domestic or foreign.
The following procedural guidelines shall be observed
1. To come under consideration for an award, a person, group of persons or an institution shall be recommended in writing by someone with the competence therefore in accordance with the pertinent provision of Executive Order 150.
2. Competence to submit nominations shall be enjoyed by persons, both Filipinos and foreigners, within the particular field of endeavor concerned and in conformity with the following pertinent provisions of Executive Order 150:

Who Are Competent to Nominate:

Public Service
(a) Persons who have received this award in this field;
(b) Heads of state or private educational institutions;
(c) Leaders of private organizations or institutions, national in scope, whose purposes are: to work for improving the status of farmers and farmhands or laborers, encourage cottage industry, increase and diversify agricultural production, improve rural health and education, promote cooperative movement for rural credit, improve production and marketing of farm products, promote the dissemination as well as free discussion of information and matters of public interest, stimulate and promote rural improvements and proper development of human and natural resources, train rural reconstruction personnel or cooperate with the State in carrying out programs or rural reconstruction, and all other activities related to and connected with land reform;
(d) Other persons who, because of their work, study or background are in close touch with individuals, groups or associated identified with the purposes above.

International Understanding Award
(a) Persons who have received the award in this field;
(b) Heads of United Nations Missions and Regional Cooperation Organizations in the Philippines;
(c) Heads of Diplomatic Missions in the Philippines;
(d) Leaders of private and governmental institutions or organizations, international in scope, whose purposes are the promotion and advancement of international amity, friendship and understanding through mutual help and assistance between and among peoples of different countries;
(e) Other persons who, because of their work, study or background, are in close touch with individuals, groups or associations identified with the purpose above stated.

Government Service Award
(a) Persons who have received the award in this field;
(b) Heads of commissions, bureaus or offices for the enhancement of the civil service system;
(c) Heads of institutions or colleges of public administration in the state or private universities;
(d) Leaders of private institutions or organizations, national in scope, whose purposes are: to work for the enhancement of the government service; to encourage research and studies of government activities; and to promote employee welfare;
(e) Other persons, who because of their work, study or background are in a position to follow and watch closely the careers of public servants.

3. Only nominations supported by adequate evidence and submitted by competent persons invited to nominate shall be considered. The following may be nominated:

Who Can Be Nominated
(a) Individuals, groups of individual or institution who have extraordinary and outstanding performance specifically in the furtherance of Land Reform or Agrarian Reform.
(b) Individuals, groups of individual or institution whose work has evidences of sustained effect of contribution to land or agrarian reform over and above normal duty.
(c) Individuals, groups of individual or institution whose contribution to the cause of land or agrarian reform is of such far-reaching consequences and emulative effect on man and his society.

Ideally, only the last five years' accomplishments will be considered. However, performance beyond five years may be considered if its significance has not become apparent until recently.

E. What To Submit
1. Profile of nominating individual, group of individuals or institution showing compliance to the provision of section D2 above.
2. Nomination proposal highlighting accomplishments based on criteria spelled out in section C and D3a-c above.
3. Evidences to the claims stated in the proposal.

F. THE AWARD IS GIVEN ANNUALLY. IF, HOWEVER, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NONE OF THE NOMINATIONS THAT HAVE COME UNDER CONSIDERATION MERIT RECOGNITION, THE DAR MAY OMIT AWARDS IN ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES IN ANY OR ALL FIELD ENDEAVOR IN ANY GIVEN YEAR.

(Sgd.) ROLANDO LL. QUERUBIN
Undersecretary for Finance, Management and Administrative Office
Chairperson, Awards and Citations Committee

(PDI - May 11 & 12, 2001)

RFM selling IT firm, seeks investors for soft drink unit

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR. AND ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE RFM group of the Concepcion family is negotiating with its partners, Merrill Lynch Global Emerging Market Partners and NJI No. 2 Investment Fund (managed by Nomura/Jafco Investment Asia Ltd.), for the sale of its 34-percent interest in PSI Technologies Holdings Inc.

The RFM group is currently moving to sell its non-core holdings to raise cash to meet $85 million worth of convertible bonds maturing this month.

Merrill Lynch and Nomura/Jafco have expressed strong interest in buying out the RFM group in PSI Tech in order to consolidate their minority holdings in the Nasdaq-listed company. Merrill Lynch has a 13-percent interest in the company and Nomura/Jafco has 16 percent.

A source said Merrill Lynch was likely to end up with the shares because the American investment firm was keen on the company's long-term prospects.

PSI Tech is one of the preferred providers of assembly and test services for power semiconductor manufacturers such as Philips Semiconductor, Power Integrations, ON Semiconductor (formerly Motorola Semiconductor Components Group), Texas Instruments and Fairchild Semiconductor.

RFM is selling its PSI Tech shareholdings nearly 15 years after company chair Jose Concepcion III successfully bid for Pacific Semiconductors or Pacsem without any concrete plan for the company or expertise in the field.

It was Concepcion's Vancouver-based brother-in-law, Arthur Young Jr., who engineered Pacsem's rise from a struggling information technology company in FTI Complex in Bicutan, Taguig, into one of the world's largest producer and tester of semiconductors.

PSI Tech's status in the semiconductor business was underscored further when it became the first Filipino semiconductor firm listed on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange, the second largest securities market in the United States and third biggest in the world.

RFM is still seeking to sell its food operations and to get investors for Cosmos Bottling Corp. in order to raise enough cash to redeem its convertible bonds at the end of the month.

An INQUIRER source said that RFM, which has to pay $85 million for the put payment and expected convertible bond call on May 30, has to raise more funds because proceeds from the sale of Nasdaq-listed information technology unit PSI Technologies would not be enough to cover the total obligation.

RFM has been offering Swift Foods and Cosmos to food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. but could not close any deal because of pricing, the source said.

In the meantime, SMC was still "interested in listening" to RFM's offers, the source pointed out.

On the other hand, another source said that investment bankers were looking into offering participation into Cosmos.

"There are many parties that are interested in coming into Cosmos, in taking a piece of the equity," the source said.

The source also said that RFM was willing to dispose of Swift Foods Corp. and its flour business.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Most actively traded issues by value

(1st quarter 2001, in pesos)

	STOCKS	PRICE Jan	PRICE Mar	VALUE (in ₱millions)
1	PLDT	835.00	715.00	7,970
2	San Miguel "B"	54.00	50.00	5,901
3	Meralco "B"	48.00	51.50	5,507
4	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.50	6.20	5,146
5	Ayala Land Inc.	5.00	5.50	5,096
6	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.92	1,983
7	Ayala Corp.	7.30	7.40	1,614
8	Metrobank	180.00	218.00	1,602
9	BPI	56.00	69.50	1,508
10	Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.70	2.36	1,363
11	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.04	1,020
12	Sun Life Financial	1,310.00	885.00	806
13	Petron	1.14	1.64	737
14	PNB	36.00	46.50	672
15	Equitable PCI	56.00	53.00	643
16	La Tondena Distillers	29.50	30.00	545
17	Empire East Land Holdings	0.30	0.31	513
18	Globe Telecom "A"	685.00	660.00	481
19	Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.53	458
20	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,540.00	1,210.00	458

Source: Technistock

The total value turnover registered by the top 20 most actively traded issues for the first quarter this year reached P44 billion, or 50.9 percent less than the total value turnover of last year's top 20 issues. PLDT moved to the top spot from third, although its value turnover was 31.4 percent less than last year. The rest of the top 5 were also in last year's most actively traded list.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

DOE issues supplemental rules on oil firms' IPO

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday said it had issued the supplemental rules governing the public listing of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.

Shell and Caltex, together with Petron Corp., make up the so-called "Big Three" in the local oil industry. Of the three, only Petron Corp. is listed.

The Oil Deregulation Law requires oil firms to conduct initial public offerings three years from the enactment of the law on Feb. 12, 1998.

But due mainly to the depressed market situation last February, both Shell and Caltex did not list. In the same month, the Department of Justice ruled that the three-year period given was "not mandatory." The ruling practically allowed the two companies to defer their respective IPOs.

"The mandate for an IPO is there but we are not providing a fixed extension or date on when it should be done," Energy Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho said.

Camacho stressed that the mandate was for Shell and Caltex to do the IPO "immediately as soon as it is feasible."

Camacho said the DOJ ruled that the oil companies could not be compelled to do the IPO on a specific date.

The former banker said the supplementing rules on the IPO required the oil companies to periodically submit to the DOE certain information that will give the government the basis in evaluating whether an IPO is already doable.

Camacho said this included among others financial information, data on the industry and the stock market.

"The idea is to encourage oil companies to do their IPOs as soon as it is feasible," he stressed.

"But if we find that, given the information that we are receiving, an IPO is doable, we can compel them to do it," he added.

Camacho said that in such a case, the DOE might ask the help of the Securities and Exchange Commission in evaluating the data and other information relevant to the mandated IPO of Shell and Caltex. "In this case, the DOE will decide on when the IPO should be made."

GOINGS-ON

CUP hall of fame awardee

JRS Express was cited outstanding messengerial company by the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) during its 125th Annual National Consumers Award.

The honor, the company says, is the crowning glory of JRS Express which only proves the company's commitment to the Filipino people and the mailing public.

Antonio M. Claparols, JRS Express president, and Javier M. Claparols, senior vice president, received the award in a ceremony held in the Manila Hotel on April 25, 2001. Claparols said the award would serve as an inspiration for the whole JRS team to continue providing the quality service JRS Express is known for.

Forest in the city

FIL-ESTATE Properties Inc. has launched a 43-hectare forested tropical resort subdivision in the heart of San Pablo City.

FEPI president Ferdinand T. Santos described the Riverina Residential and Commercial Estates as a "forest in the city."

Phase 1 of the project has been selling well and currently undergoing earth-moving activities. Phase 2 has yet to be offered for sale. Average lot cuts are from 150 sq.m. to 800 sq.m.

First class facilities and amenities such as a multipurpose main clubhouse, swimming pool, open tennis and basketball courts, landscaped entrance gate and guardhouse, Meralco electrical facilities, centralized water system and overhead tanks, underground drainage systems and perimeter wall.

Catering Exchange takes off

CATERING Exchange reported a total of P173 million worth of transactions in the first quarter of 2001.

Daniel Roman S. Pido, COO of Catering Exchange said, "The first quarter of this year was an excellent start for us. We are very pleased with the strong increases in our transactions and earnings. Our trading partners continue to benefit from Catering Exchange's many marketing initiatives and in the growing number of our trading partners."

Furthermore, the company's trading partners were delighted to meet new business partners in the Exchange aside from their traditional offline partners and customers. "We value the trust extended to us by our trading partners. One of Catering Exchange's thrust is to shift its trading partners' competencies to e-commerce and face the challenges in the new economy," Pido added.

Catering Exchange expects further increases in its transactions in the coming months with the increase in the number of its local and international trading partners especially in Australia.

BSP keeps rates steady, awaits US Fed's move

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is keeping its key overnight rates at current levels until the US Federal Reserves decides on whether to adjust its short-term rates next week as expected.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the Monetary Board saw no reason to bring down the central bank's policy rates yet amid a relatively stable exchange rate and manageable inflation levels.

The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates were maintained at 9.5 percent and 11.75 percent respectively for next week.

Next week's position of the Monetary Board, however, will largely depend on the movement of US interest rates. Analysts are anticipating a half-a-percentage-point cut in the US short-term rates to 4 percent on May 15.

"We decided to keep our rates steady because our current levels are deemed appropriate given the existing rates differential and inflation rate," said Tetangco, who is BSP's officer-in-charge while BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura is attending an Asian Development Bank conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Before Buenaventura left last Friday, he said the BSP would likely match any rate reduction by the US Fed.

"We will wait for the US Fed action. If there is no Fed cut, there will be no BSP cut," said Buenaventura last week.

The BSP believes that the peso should bounce back to a range of P50 to 50.50 to $1 and "go back to its normal tracking together with other Asian currencies" after the elections.

Buenaventura said that efforts to boost the US economy after recent economic data showed a slowdown was a welcome development especially for the local export sector.

The national government is also counting on a central bank rates cut next week to help bring down the cost of its borrowings.

A decline in the BSP rates usually lead to a similar movement in the government's benchmark borrowing rates that consequently influence bank lending rates.

A cut in interest rates leads to lower bank lending rates. Lower rates encourage the private sector to borrow to put up new businesses or expand existing operations.

The BSP stressed that its lower policy rates would continue for as long as inflation remains manageable.

The government borrows P7 billion weekly from the private sector by issuing P4 billion worth of treasury bills and P3billion worth of treasury bonds.

AIDEC INVESTMENT IN FIRST GEN

First Generation Holdings Corp. (First Gen) signed a share purchase agreement with AIDEC FG Power Corp. Ltd. on April 24, 2001. The signing was led by First Philippine Holdings Corp. chair Oscar M. Lopez (center), and AIDEC FG director Koji Kashiwaya (left). First Gen president Peter D. Garrucho Jr. (left) witnessed the signing. AIDEC will be investing about $40 million in First Gen in exchange for a 7.75-percent stake with an equity valuation of $516 million for First Gen.

Politics spoiling Urban Bank re-opening

(From page B5)

not delay merger negotiations between it and Urban Bank. That was two weeks after former President Joseph Estrada was ousted from office by a military-backed civilian revolt.

That, he said, was the reason why Bank of Commerce opted to step aside: It wanted to wait and see how the political climate would shape up.

PDIC's Nazareno declined to comment on the existence of this letter.

"There are a lot of talks, but I cannot speculate. The reason they gave us was the legal problems," he said. The PDIC earlier gave the Export and Industry Bank until May 15 to conclude rehabilitation talks with the shareholders and depositors of Urban Bank.

Ramos and Erap

It is no secret that Urban Bank's chair emeritus is former President Fidel Ramos, one of the architects of Estrada's ouster. Months before Estrada stepped down, there were rumors that one whole floor of the Urban Plaza, Urban Bank's headquarters, was allegedly being used by Ramos' political party as its command center for moves to boot Estrada out of Malacañang.

Yet a congressional investigation showed that Estrada himself kept a numbered account with Urbancorp, Urban Bank's investment house, and that he managed to withdraw some P143 million days before Urban Bank went belly up.

Borlongan revealed that Estrada sought a meeting with him early this year. He said that on Jan. 10, during the inauguration of the San Miguel bridge in Bulacan, his wife, Dolores, was introduced to Estrada.

"Estrada was surprised. Then he started recalling things and asked my wife things that were not common. He asked, '*Siya ba ang kapatid ni* Danny?' He's my eldest brother who passed away nine years ago. '*Sino ba 'yung* TOYM awardee?' These two things are not current information, not familiar, but he would ask those questions. It was as if I was at the top of his mind. At the end of that function, he was leaving, he approached my wife and he told her that he wanted me to see him. Then he said this, '*Si* Buenaventura *kasi*'," Borlongan said.

He said he met with his lawyer, Siegfried Fortun, who was also Estrada's lawyer, and told him, "I don't want to see the guy. I know what he's going to ask and I cannot ask a favor from someone whom I cannot reciprocate."

"I said that to Erap's lawyer because I was mad. I've never told that incident to anyone except to very close friends," he said.

Buenaventura said he had "never heard of (the incident), and I don't even know if it ever happened. What did he mean by '*Si* Buenaventura *kasi*? Yes, we closed (Urban Bank) because they declared a holiday. That's all it is."

Other concerns

There are other political concerns.

Two lawmakers, Representatives Oscar Moreno and Joker Arroyo, have sought Buenaventura's ouster from the central bank for his supposedly poor handling of the Urban Bank case.

Moreno and Arroyo accused Buenaventura of giving "undue preference" to Urban Bank's big depositors over its small depositors, among them Estrada.

They alleged that Buenaventura, with his knowledge of the impending closure of Urban Bank, tipped off Estrada, the Bangko Sentral Provident Fund and Land Bank of the Philippines, who were, in turn, able to shovel money out just days before Urban Bank shut down.

Estrada, they claimed was able to withdraw P143 million from a numbered account with Urbancorp, Urban Bank's investment house; the Provident Fund, P15 million, and Landbank, P562.5 million.

Buenaventura has denied ever tipping off anybody about Urban Bank's closure, especially Estrada, his classmate at the Ateneo High School.

"How can I tip him off if I don't know whether he has an account there or not?" Buenaventura asked, adding that the central bank cannot compel banks to reveal identities of their depositors.

"If indeed the (former) President had an account with Urban Bank, then the ones who should be asked to account for that would be the owners, the managers, the people who opened the account," he added.

"The best way to settle this is for the prosecution team to subpoena the records so that they can check if the account was opened in accordance with the manual of regulations of the central bank," Buenaventura said.

"Then we can then find out if indeed the numbered account belongs to him (Estrada) and if the account has its proper documentation. On the basis of that, then the central bank can investigate."

Buenaventura has said he would not yield to pressure for him to resign.

"I have a duty to do and we need to preserve the independence of the BSP," Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura has a guaranteed six-year term ending in 2005. Malacañang has already assured Buenaventura that it will respect his six-year tenure that ends in 2005.

Roadblock

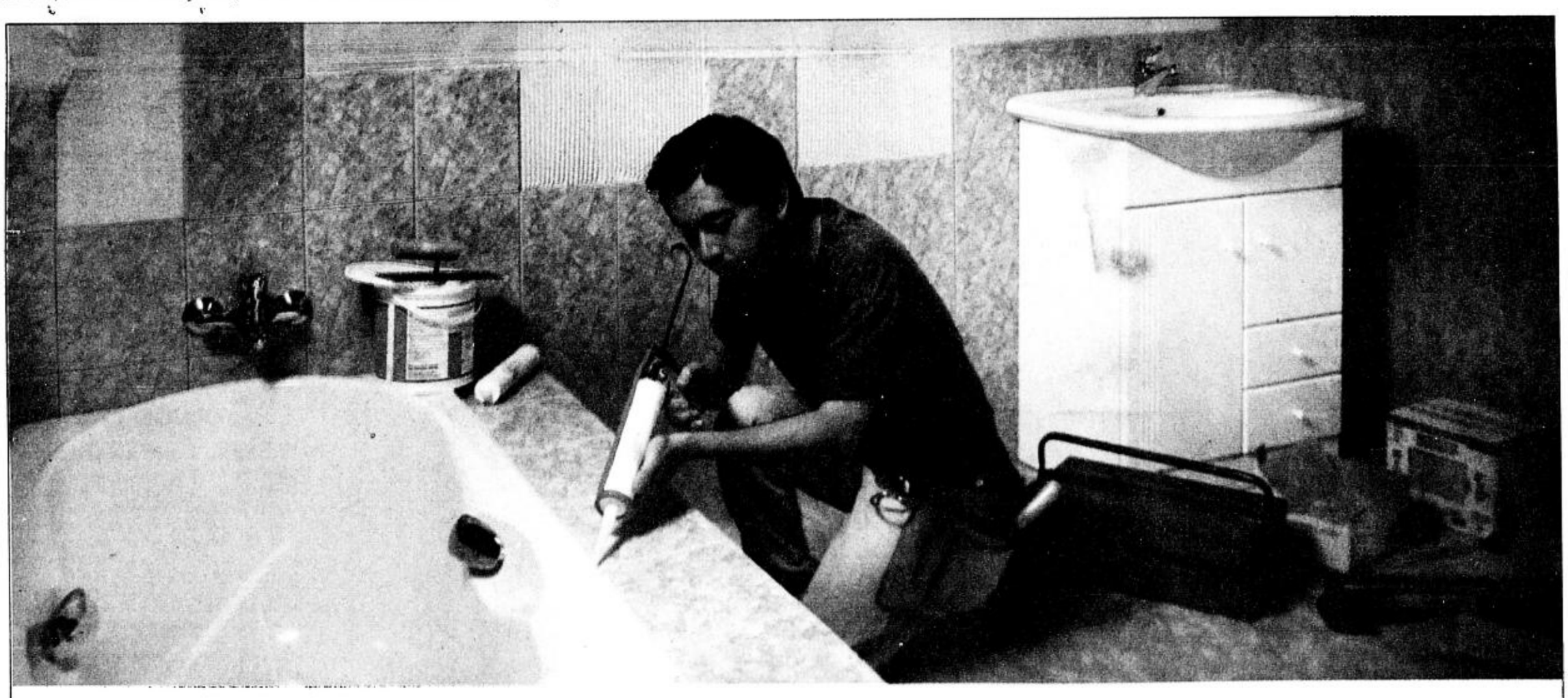
Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano, meanwhile, bucked a plan by state pension fund Social Security System to bail out Urban Bank.

The SSS is a major shareholder of the bank.

Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said the plan to use P600 million of the SSS' funds to re-open Urban Bank would only aggravate the SSS' financial situation.

"Worse, there is no assurance that the millions of pesos to be invested by the SSS in Urban Bank would result in an improved state of finance for the SSS," he said.

Cayetano said SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II should put the SSS' finances in order instead of placing money in "another questionable" investment. *(To be continued)*



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ADB think tank makes fresh push for lender of last resort

HONOLULU, Hawaii—An Asian Development Bank think-tank is making a fresh push to set up a lender of last resort for Asia to address grave financial crises of the type that sent the region to its knees in 1997.

The ADB Institute paper contends that the International Monetary Fund had flunked this role four years ago.

While the United States shot down a $100-billion proposal to set up such an Asian Monetary Fund in 1997, ADB Institute fellows Masaru Yoshitomi and Sayuri Shirai argued that a similar institution should provide "timely response" next time around.

Their paper was circulated at the annual ADB meeting, which began here Wednesday.

The IMF led multi billion-dollar rescue packages for Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand in 1997.

But what solved the Seoul crisis was not the IMF-led $57-billion rescue package, in which the ADB also pitched in, but rather the US Federal Reserve Board's effort to engineer a rollover of short-term debts, the paper argued.

The packages provided less financing than expected because IMF financial support was "generally phased and conditional" to counter a "moral hazard" by ensuring the borrowers adopt policies to cure what ails them.

"Such a middle-ground approach hampered the affected Asian countries from promptly stabilizing market confidence and prolonged the crisis, leading to contagion."

They said the IMF's usable resources, including newly developed facilities, added up to a mere $145 billion.

"Whether this amount was sufficient to deal with the Asian-type crisis is still debatable."

While the new and bigger IMF facilities such as the so-called Contingent Credit Line and the Supplementary Reserve Facility—the one given to Brazil in 1998—are welcome, "setting criteria or requirements that apply to all member countries may increase the risk of a delayed response and inadequate policy prescriptions," they said.

And while the IMF can mobilize resources by borrowing from member countries in case of a foreign reserve shortage, "such an arrangement may not generate quick collective action unless institutionalized."

The paper said there was growing demand in Asia, particularly from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), for a "regional financial arrangement" that would boost regional cooperation towards maintaining financial stability.

Asean, China, Japan and South Korea endorsed an initiative in Chiang Mai, Thailand last year to set up a network of bilateral swap arrangements that would link the reserves of the 13 countries as a defense against future financial crises.

Their combined reserves amounted to about $700 billion as of end-1999, the paper said.

Finance ministers of Asean members Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are to meet their three East Asian counterparts here later Wednesday on the sidelines of the ADB meeting.

The ministers are expected to discuss progress of the swaps, among others, officials said. *AFP*

Asian labor ministers told to go upmarket

KUALA LUMPUR—Globalization will become a "winner takes all" game for the rich West unless Southeast Asia sheds its reputation as a cheap labor region and moves upmarket, Asean labor ministers were told Thursday.

"Without improving the education, skills, productivity and innovation of our workforce, we will not be able to escape the 'uncompetitive gap' once our labor is no longer relatively cheap," said Malaysia's deputy premier, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He was speaking at the opening of a meeting of labor ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Abdullah urged ministers to study various regional approaches to upgrading skills and to work out guidelines for dealing with laid-off workers in light of the US economic downturn.

All Southeast Asian economies would also slow down this year as their exports fell, he said.

Ways to counter the slowdown and Myanmar's response to complaints of forced labor were expected to be high on the agenda as ministers began meeting privately later Thursday.

Myanmar's labor minister Maj. Gen. Tin Ngwe was expected to brief counterparts on his response to complaints by the International Labor Organization that the military-ruled nation uses forced labor.

Abdullah cited Southeast Asia's 1997/98 financial crisis, which impoverished millions, as an "example of bad globalization."

Globalization in its present form "is driven by a few developed nations, which results in a winner take all, zero sum game," he said. *AFP*

Southeast Asia seeks solution to job losses

KUALA LUMPUR—Warning that severe job losses could batter the region this year due to a global economic slowdown, Southeast Asian labor ministers launched talks Thursday on a blueprint to boost their cooperation and develop more competitive workers.

"I believe, without exception, the economies of our region will experience a slowdown this year," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia said in a speech opening the two-day annual meeting of labor ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"For those of us that are big exporters to the United States, we will see a reduction in exports and even corresponding retrenchments," Abdullah said. But he warned that the Southeast Asian nations "need to be careful about competing with each other" to attract investment.

Tens of thousands of Southeast Asian workers have lost their jobs this year as the US downturn bites, Abdullah said. Among the worst hit have been nations like Malaysia and Singapore that export electronics to the United States.

Abdullah urged that regional guidelines need to be drawn up on handling external pressures to the regional labor market, which runs the gamut from highly educated and high-tech Singapore to least-developed countries like Myanmar and Cambodia.

"What remains most important is that we take the right steps in developing work forces that are competitive, flexible and innovative," Abdullah said. "We do not want to be renowned as the region with cheap labor." *AP*

O'Neill says little risk of US recession

HONOLULU, Hawaii—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill on Wednesday downplayed growing fears of a recession as the US productivity rate fell for the first time in six years.

"I think if you look at the past set of productivity data, there are still some sectors that still have reasonably good productivity in the kind of soft economic background that we have," he told a news conference here.

O'Neill, who opened the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting here, added: "Let's just wait for another couple of months of data."

President George W. Bush's spokesperson Ari Fleischer said in Washington on Tuesday that "the president remains very concerned about the state of the economy throughout the country, and there are signs of economic weakness that persist."

Fleischer said Bush "believes the best way to address the weakness is by the Congress passing the budget that he has sent up."

The US government this week released data showing a 0.1 percent drop in US labor productivity in the first quarter, compared to a 2.0 percent gain in the three months to December 2000. The fall surprised Wall Street, whose analysts were expecting a positive figure.

O'Neill said the "opportunities" for productivity improvement are still there.

"I'm not worried about the productivity falling to the levels that we saw in the '70s and '80s," he added.

O'Neill said, "the rebound will come when the economy has cleaned up the overhang of production capacity and inventory." *AFP*

Australia's unemployment figures rise

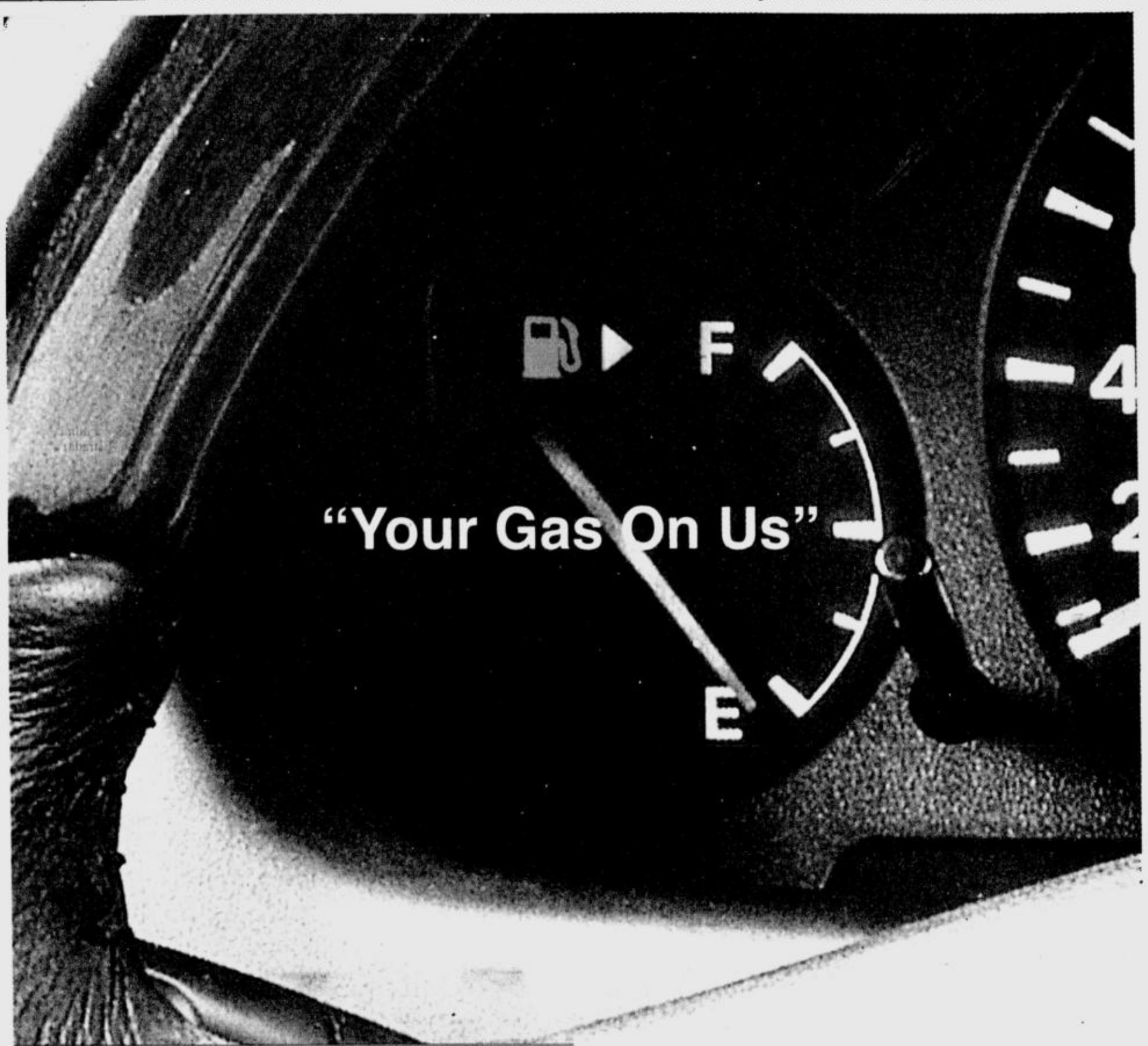
CANBERRA, Australia—The unpopular government of Prime Minister John Howard got more bad economic news Thursday as figures revealed a rise in unemployment.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reported the unemployment rate rose to 6.8 percent in April from 6.5 percent in March.

After allowing for seasonal factors, 40,400 full time jobs disappeared from the market.

The ABS said there was a surge of 80,500 new part-time jobs, but as more people joined the search for work in April the new jobs were not enough to raise the employment rate.

The job data came after a mixed bag of economic releases this week, which have recorded positive rises in retail spending and consumer confidence. However, those figures were tempered by a survey showing falls in business conditions and a solemn statement from the central bank that there remains "a good deal of uncertainty" over the world economy. *AP*



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Taytay 10790sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

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LOT

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THE PARC ROYALE Raquel Pager 1481788421

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CELSO C. OBEN located at 191 Blumentritt San Juan Metro Manila has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc#115 Page#23 Book#6 Series of 2001 by Notary Public Eduardo C. Tagle of San Juan Metro Manila (PDI-May 11,18&25, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of loss: Lost Acr#356317; ICR#236877 Founder Contact J. Ong 7814393

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

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1 - JR. ACCOUNTANT

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- at least 2 years experience in General Accounting
- proficiency in MS Office a must
- not more than 28 years old
- well-organized and able to work under pressure

Interested applicants may apply in person and for interview on **May 16, 2001 (1 day only)** at **9:00 a.m.** at **NO KA OI PHILS. INTERNATIONAL INC. Unit 406 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.** Please bring your resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 picture, NBI clearance or you may fax at 807-3818.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 * 372-50-43
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 * 372-50-61

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of **"Various Supplies and Materials for the construction of two (2) units Lambaklad Project,"** not later than **2:00 p.m.** on **May 21, 2001**.

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photo copies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director

(PDI – May 11, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

ENGR. ERNESTO G. DE LEON

of Lemery, Batangas and Quezon City

peacefully joined our Lord on May 3, 2001 at the age of 86.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will be arriving on May 12, 2001 from Newark, CA and will lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later. For further information, please call 434-2747.

F U L L L I F E

In God's beauty, goodness, fidelity
In real simple, humble experience
Of hope in service
Of freshness in the breeze
In the melody of chirping birds...

...Let us therefore keep sharing
this great experience of fullness of life
even as we continue journeying
with our fellow creatures towards
wholeness and fullness of life
'til Kingdom come!"

(Sr. Violeta Marcos, AMP
April 4, 2001)

"Have you lived a full life?
my dear friend always asked me
Yes, I did, by God's grace."

Sister Ma. Violeta (Remedios) S. Marcos, AMP

Co-Foundress/Superior General
AUGUSTINIAN MISSIONARIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMP)
July 18, 1937 – April 30, 2001

The Congregation of the AUGUSTINIAN MISSIONARIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMP) extends its heartfelt gratitude to all friends, relatives, fellow Religious men and women, Cause-oriented Groups, Institutions and Organizations and Mission Partners for the prayers, presence, and support shared in at-one-ness with the passing away of our beloved respected Sr. Viole.

Col. CESAR ABCEDE LAGAYA (Ret.)

Lucban, Quezon – Makati City

Peacefully passed away on May 8, 2001 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Loleng**; children **Fr. Rene, Bro. Raddie, Al & Jenny** and **Gigi & Edgar**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 13, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. John Bosco Parish Church at Pasay Road, Makati City.

JOHN J. SCHULTZ

Died in the grace of our Lord on May 8, 2001 at the age of 60 in Manila, Philippines.

His bereaved mother **Alicia L. Schultz**; and sister **Melinda**; brothers **Tony, Stanley** (†); nephews **Luis III** and **Ricardo Pellicer**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Mass will be held at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City on Saturday, May 12, 2001 at 3:00 in the afternoon.

PONCE CAESAR MERCADO PEREÑA

January 14, 1987 - May 9, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 9, 2001 after a three-year courageous battle with cancer.

His loving parents **Rodrigo** and **Violeta**; and only brother **Albert Caesar** request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the Zeny Lim De Mesa Memorial Chapel, #28 National Road, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 13, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Please omit flowers.

ATTY. ANDRES BORLONGAN PULUMBARIT

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 9, 2001 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **PACITA**; children **RODY** (†), **VILMA, REMY & ED, BUDDY & RITA, ANNIE & BOY**; sister **ENCAR** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 15, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 12:00 noon after the 10:00 a.m. service Mass at Arlington.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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The family of the late

DR. VIRGILIO S. RIGOR, SR.

U.P. Medicine Class 1947

who passed away on May 9, 2001 at the age of 79

wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

His remains shall be transported back to Iligan City on May 12, 2001.

'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3:16

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(Eccl. 12:7)

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DESTILERIA LIMTUACO & CO., INC. and its subsidiaries,

ARCHIPELAGO WATER PRODUCTS INT'L., INC., and

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regret to announce the peaceful passing of

TEH SIU YONG LIMPE

wife of our late **Chairman James V. Limpe**,

who entered the Kingdom of our Creator
last Sunday, May 6, 2001 at the age of 95.

We request everyone to please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at her residence, 2162 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City.

Interment will be on Monday, May 14, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park after an 8:00 a.m. Mass at her residence.

ENGR. FRANCISCO D. REBOSURA, JR.

(Retired Assistant Regional Director of DPWH)

has peacefully joined our Creator on the 9th day of May 2001 at the age of 79.

Together with our loving **Mama Inday**; we his children **Bong** and **Malu**, **Menchu and Pete**, **Mario** (†) and **Precy**, **Mimi** and **Ali**, **Vic** and **Cris**, **Oscar** and **Joyce**; his grandchildren **Warren**, **Nikki**, **Roxanne**, **Alex**, **Ruji**, **Marvin**, **MJ**, **Ayel**, **Trina** and **David**; request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City on May 10, 2001 and will be brought home to his province in Koronadal South Cotabato on May 11, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 15, 2001 at the Golden Valley Memorial Park, Koronadal, South Cotabato.

"How Good Our God Has Been To Me."
Psalm 13:6

Our Nanang,

Leonila Gonzales Roxas Vda. de Martin

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 9, 2001
in Baguio City at the age of 81.

Her children **Bibbet** and **Poy Palo**, **Olive** and **Carlos Tampinco**, **Boysie** and **Tita**, **Nanding** and **Luz**, **Ina** and **Nyori Hernandez**, **Toytoy** and **Lani**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 21 Outlook Drive, Baguio City. After the 8:00 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Pacdal Circle. Interment will follow at the Pyramid Memorial Park in Kias, Baguio City.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

"Ina, your presence will be deeply missed,
but the memories of your love and goodness will
live with us and remain in our hearts forever..."

MA. REGINA YSABEL C. GATCHALIAN

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 9, 2001 at the age of 11.

Her bereaved parents **Rorimer** and **Lillian Gatchalian**; brother **Rorimer Miguel**; grandparents **Cirilo** and **Felicidad Gatchalian**, **Gorgonio** and **Linda Catimbang**; uncles **Ronnie**, **Robert** and **Waldo**; aunties **Jocelyn**, **Jo Ann**, **Ana** and **Mia Dina**; cousins and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul and to rejoice at her calling to eternal life.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, cor. Mercedes Ave., Pasig City.

Interment will be on May 12, 2001 at The Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio after the 8 a.m. Mass at Arlington East.

To Our Dearest
Relatives and Friends
Our Heartfelt Thanks

To those who showed their love and sympathy, offered Masses, sent spiritual bouquets, flowers, and gifts, visited and kept vigil, attended funeral rites and who in countless ways condoled with us in our moments of grief when our dearest mother peacefully joined our Lord on April 29, 2001.

From the family of the late

LINA CAPILI-DE LEON

of Bacolor, Pampanga.

Winnie & Boy, Normie & Charles, Tess & Rene, Cynthia & Rene, Vilma & Arnel, Grace.

"I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are Yours."
Matthew 11:28

DESPITE SLOWDOWN

US says it will keep its market open to Asia

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The United States on Wednesday pledged to keep its market open and lead efforts toward early recovery from a global downturn as the Asian Development Bank began its 34th annual meeting here.

"I give you my personal pledge that the US market will remain open so that we can continue to contribute to Asia Pacific prosperity," US President George W. Bush said in a written message to officials of 59 ADB member-countries.

Washington "continues to maintain a strong commitment" to the ADB, he said, adding "it continues to be a vital catalyst in promoting economic growth, creating jobs, and raising living standards in some of the world's most dynamic economies."

But he urged the bank to "maintain the highest standards of accountability," adding: "We look for concrete, measurable results, as we do with all multilateral development banks."

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill opened this year's meeting of the Asia-Pacific's leading multilateral development lender by assuring trading partners in the region that Washington would lead efforts to get the global economy back on track.

"While the US economy has slowed, I have full confidence in its resilience. Economic fundamentals—productivity growth, the flexibility of our labor and capital markets, and low inflation—remain strong," he said.

He said the Bush administration was "working to put in place macroeconomic policies supportive of growth" and said its proposed tax cuts would provide instant stimulus and raise economic efficiency to underpin long-term growth.

"The US Federal Reserve has demonstrated resolutely its willingness to ease monetary conditions as needed."

O'Neill said, "at the moment, all of the major economies are operating below their long-term potential."

He said it was important for Japan, Washington's joint leading subscriber in the ADB, "to achieve strong, stable growth" after 10 years in the doldrums.

He welcomed new Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's recent statements "indicating his commitment to reform and look forward to seeing Japan take steps needed to trigger an enduring recovery."

Aside from the two countries, Canada and 14 European countries led by Germany, France and Britain hold a 20.437-percent interest in the ADB. Forty-three Asia-Pacific economies, many of them dependent on the ADB for development aid, make up the balance.

ADB president Tadao Chino of Japan welcomed the Manila-based lender's members, including Turkmenistan, making its maiden appearance at the conference.

He said that while Asian economic growth should decelerate this year and next, "we believe that downside risks are manageable, and fears of a new regional crisis seem exaggerated."

Chino said the bank would pursue its main objective of halving Asian poverty by 2015.

"Despite unprecedented and unparalleled economic growth in many Asian countries over the past three decades, Asia still remains home to two-thirds of the world's poor," he said.

"If the world is to halve poverty by 2015, Asia and the Pacific must be the spearhead in this effort."

Chino said renewed growth would "require further progress in macroeconomic management and implementing structural and policy reforms, including financial and corporate restructuring, fiscal consolidation, and improved governance."

He said the region faced the key challenges of poverty, globalization and environmental degradation.

O'Neill called on members to "improve corporate governance in the ADB" to make it and other multilateral lenders "more responsive, open, and accountable to shareholders and taxpayers."

Chino thanked the developed nation members for topping up the Asian Development Fund, the bank's principal soft loan window, last year.

He said ADB was "committed to the efficient and effective use of scarce ADF resources for poverty reduction" and was now implementing its new policy of "performance-based allocation" of the fund. *AFP*

US praises reforms promised by Japan

HONOLULU, Hawaii—US Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill on Wednesday praised economic reforms promised by Japan's new leader and said the country must work hard, but at its own pace, to end 10 years of sluggish growth.

Speaking at the opening of the 34th annual Asian Development Bank meeting, O'Neill also said: "While the US economy has slowed, I have full confidence in its resilience."

He said economic fundamentals such as productivity growth and low inflation remain strong in America, and that stimulus will be provided by the Bush administration's proposed tax cuts and the recent interest rate reductions by US Federal Reserve.

Recently, the International Monetary Fund said that global growth this year should slow to 3.2 percent, compared with 4.8 percent last year—in part because the US economy, the world's largest, is expected to grow by only 1.5 percent.

O'Neill told the officials from the ADB's 59 membe-countries that East Asia's recovery from its 1997 to 1998 financial crisis, which set off recessions around the world, remains encouraging and that per capita income in most of its countries is now well above pre-crisis levels.

In a separate speech, ADB president Tadao Chino of Japan said that fears of another Asian crisis because of the US and Japanese slowdowns and weaker global demand for technology and electronics products have been exaggerated.

"Drawing upon the severe lessons of the financial crisis, Asian economies have become much more resilient to external shocks compared to the pre-crisis period, with more flexible exchange-rate systems, increased foreign reserves, reduced short-term debt and a demonstrated commitment to ongoing reforms," Chino said.

He said Asian economies will continue to grow in 2001 and 2002, but the expansion will be slower than last year. The ADB expects Asia's developing economies to expand 5.1 percent this year, after growing 7.1 percent in 2000. Growth of 6.1 percent is projected for 2002.

O'Neill said, "It is important for Japan"—the world's second largest economy—"after 10 years of sluggish growth, to achieve strong, stable growth." He also said, "We welcome Prime Minister (Junichiro) Koizumi's recent statements indicating his commitment to reform and look forward to seeing Japan take the steps needed to trigger an enduring recovery." *AP*

Protesters demand halt to ADB projects

HONOLULU, Hawaii—A large but peaceful street protest hit the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting here Wednesday, demanding that four bank-funded projects in Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand be halted.

ADB president Tadao Chino stepped out into the street from a luncheon hosted by Hawaii Governor Benjamin Cayetano to meet a noisy and colorful assembly of protesters, who marched on the Hawaii Convention Center venue chanting "Chino Out!"

With Honolulu police on a high level of alert for this week's meetings, metal barriers confined the demonstrators across the street from the convention center.

Walden Bello, a leftist professor from the Philippines, read out the protesters' demands to Chino, who was escorted by burly security guards wearing printed Hawaiian shirts.

Bello told Chino his bank was now "widely recognized as having imposed tremendous sufferings on the peoples of the Asia-Pacific.

"In the name of development, its projects and programs destroyed the livelihood of peoples, brought about the disintegration of local and indigenous communities, violated ancestral domains, undermined sovereign self-determination, promoted the sharp rise in inequality, deepened poverty, and destabilized the environment."

The Japanese bank president said he appreciated the opportunity of meeting the protest leaders, and said he will give "careful consideration" to their demands.

The protesters arrived as the ADB board of governors opened a three-day meeting.

The protesters demanded that the bank stop four projects including the Samut Prakarn wastewater treatment facility in Thailand, a water management project in Sri Lanka, a highland project in the Cordillera region in the Philippines and an irrigation project in Pakistan.

The bank put the Thai project under review last year due to ecological concerns raised by a nearby community of mussel farmers and the western environmental group Greenpeace.

The Honolulu demonstrators held up placards that read "Refuse and Resist," "Asian Destruction Bank," "Dams Destroy Forests," and "Millions Displaced by the ADB."

One section struck up a reggae beat with a drum kit, and some held up the inverted state flag of Hawaii and raised streamers that read "US Occupied Hawaii."

Some of the young women in the crowd were dressed in grass skirts and danced to the beat of the drums.

Chino told the protesters that the ADB, which lent $5.85 billion for 74 projects in 22 countries in the region last year, "is a bank dedicated to poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific."

"We welcome different views, and we will listen closely to all your comments and all your concerns and give them careful consideration," he said before going back inside to finish his lunch. *AFP*

Microsoft chief predicts a glowing future

HONG KONG—Microsoft Corp. chief executive Steve Ballmer predicted a glowing future for the software giant Thursday, saying its new Windows XP operating system would be a "slam-dunk winner."

"Our optimism of the future is as great today as it was five years ago," he said at the Fortune Global Forum, and pointed to Asia as a key growth platform.

"Our business has held up very well. We will continue to invest and spend on research and development. We still see incredible things to transform the world."

He said Asia was perhaps the fastest growing potential market for hi-tech companies.

"It is the most fertile ground for technology," he said. "Japan's technology market is still growing, the PC market there has grown 45 to 50 percent in the last three years.

"China is growing even faster. It's the fourth largest market in the world and should be the second in a few years. The rest of Asia is growing very well."

He said the company was busy preparing for the launch of Windows XP in October, scotching speculation Microsoft could miss the key Christmas shopping season.

Microsoft said earlier the new operating system will be launched on Oct. 25.

The company expects the launch will generate interest in new PCs and upgrading older PCs at a time when the computer industry has been slumping and few consumers are interested in newer models.

Microsoft says Windows XP will be a more stable operating system that cuts ties to the older Windows DOS system.

"It is absolutely the most important release of Windows in years," said Ballmer. "It really takes the next step in getting people of the world into the digital medium.

"I think it's a slam-dunk winner. Consumers will be saying 'I can do things I couldn't do before'."

Windows XP will feature a new user interface called "Luna," which will simplify for users what can now be a very busy computer screen. *AFP*

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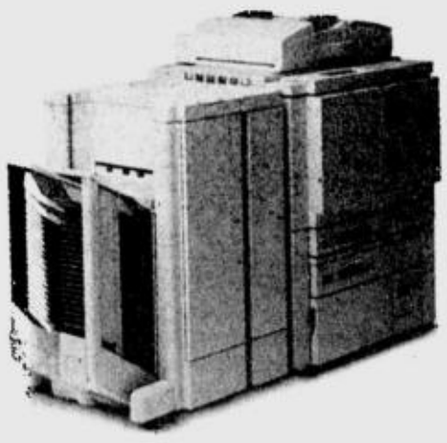

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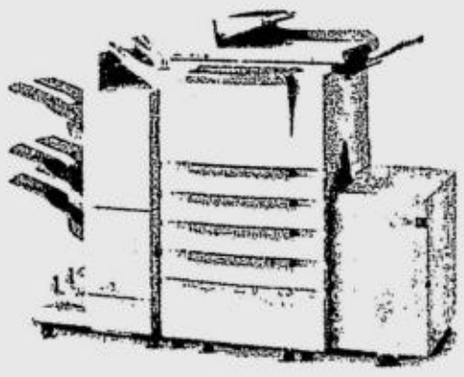

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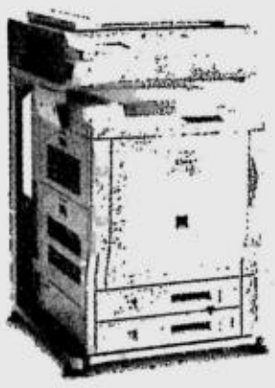

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BUSINESS

RP reserves dip on debt servicing

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves shrank to $14.5 billion last month from March's $14.71 billion on payments made to service the central bank and the national government's debts.

"The slight decline in reserves during the period was on account mainly of the foreign exchange requirement of the national government and the BSP to service maturing external obligations," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters.

In a report released on Tuesday, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it paid some $470 million worth of debts while the national government paid around $270 million.

Last month, the central bank secured a new $200-million loan from US investment banks JP Morgan Chase Manhattan Corp. and Citibank NA.

The Bangko Sentral is aiming to maintain an average international reserves level of $15 billion this year, the same as last year's.

Foreign creditors and investors use a country's international reserves level as a measure of its ability to settle its imports.

The Philippines' international reserves as of April were enough to cover 4.3 months worth of imports.

Central bank officials said better economic prospects in the second half should reel in more foreign investments, helping lift the country's international reserves.

The Bangko Sentral was originally aiming for an average $16 billion in reserves this year, but it trimmed this to $15 billion on account of an expected slowdown in exports.

Demand for Philippine goods is expected to slow down as the United States, the country's biggest export market, go through a period of near-recession.

A slowdown in worldwide demand for semiconductors, one of the country's biggest export products, is also seen hitting the local export sector.

Demand for semiconduct products worldwide has ebbed. Computer companies have been unable to excite consumers' appetite for new products, leading to a supply glut in microprocessors.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier predicted a 4-percent growth in exports this year, less than half of last year's 8.7-percent rate.

Electronics exports might grow at zero percent, while everything else might grow at only a 4-percent rate, he said.

Last year, the country's gross international reserves grew to $15.01 billion.

"So we said about $15 billion is what we can achieve this year. We agreed that borrowing more than what we already have to boost GIR will eventually be counterproductive and we don't want to crowd out the national government when they borrow abroad in the second quarter," Buenaventura said.

ENRIQUE Razon (third from left), International Container Terminal Services Inc. chair, answers questions during a stockholders' meeting of the country's biggest cargo-handling firm. ICTSI is considering delisting its shares as it prepares to list its international holding unit by 2003. JOHNNY VILLENA

Japan, RP working on dollar swap deals

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Japan unveiled yesterday $6 billion worth of bilateral swap arrangements with South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand as part of a plan to prevent future Asian currency crises.

Tokyo is in separate talks with the Philippines and China involving similar arrangements.

"With Korea, a dollar-won swap arrangement of up to $2 billion has been agreed upon basically," Japan's senior deputy finance minister, Seichiro Murakami, told a joint news conference.

He said "substantial agreement has been reached" for a dollar-ringgit swap arrangement of $1 billion with Malaysia, on top of an existing $2.5-billion swap arrangement.

"We also have reached substantial agreement with Thailand on a dollar-baht swap arrangement for up to $3 billion," Murakami added.

The ministers of the four countries announced the agreements after a two-hour meeting of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations finance ministers with their Japanese, South Korean and Chinese counterparts here.

The officials were in Honolulu to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank, a 59-nation international lending agency that fights poverty in Asia and the Pacific.

Such swap plans have been dubbed the Chiang Mai Initiative because the concept was first hatched on the sidelines of last year's ADB meeting in the city in northern Thailand.

During the Asian crisis, the collapse of the Thai baht and South Korean won helped shatter their economies and force them to accept bailout loans from the International Monetary Fund. Malaysia didn't accept IMF loans, but it introduced capital controls to protect its own financial markets.

The goal is to eventually create a web of bilateral swap arrangements covering the 10 mostly developing Asean nations to help them defend their currencies.

While Kuala Lumpur has not used its existing swap facility with Tokyo, "the existence of these two swap arrangements would nevertheless provide Malaysia with greater flexibility to effectively address any potential financial crisis that may arise," Malaysian Finance Minister Daum Zainuddin said in a statement.

Asean includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"These negotiations are under way," he said without giving figures. *AFP*

BSP sees 15% growth in domestic liquidity

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it was willing to ease its monetary stance further to allow domestic liquidity to grow to as much as 15 percent by yearend from 10.5 percent last month.

Allowing domestic liquidity to grow means the central bank may permit more funds to flow into the system to help encourage growth and economic activity.

"A sustained growth in domestic liquidity, or M3, will ensure an adequate supply of funds to fuel domestic demand and productive activity. Thus, the BSP will continue to manage M3 in line with a yearend growth target of up to 15 percent," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Domestic liquidity is a measure of money supply that includes money held by individuals, institutional investors and banks.

Based on data, however, the monetary easing stance of the central bank appears to be favoring more the national government rather than the private sector.

Of the P191 billion the national government has to raise this year, more than 60 percent will be taken from the domestic market while the rest will come from the overseas markets.

Net domestic credits, a record of all borrowings in the local system, grew to 11.2 percent in March from 10.3 percent the previous month. The growth was largely on account of a significant increase in public sector credit to 23.1 percent in March from 18.6 percent the previous month.

This, as opposed to a contraction in private sector, credit to 6.8 percent from 7.2 percent in February.

The Bangko Sentral said it had no available data of bank lending growth in March, but as of February, bank lending growth had slowed down to 5.9 percent from 7.8 percent a month ago.

A reduced share of the private sector in net domestic credits meant an even slower bank lending growth in March, according to an analyst. The central bank had projected a 10-percent improvement in credit this year from a 7-percent growth in bank lending last year.

While the Bangko Sentral would like to portray an increased credit to the private sector, which easily translates to aggressive bank lending activity, analysts believe the more important picture is that the government may already be crowding out the private sector for funds.

The rise in credits to the public sector, according to a central bank official, reflects an increase in holdings of government securities, like treasury bills and bonds.

Clarissa S. Batino

RJ group, PNB reach P1-B debt settlement

THE RJ group of companies said yesterday it has reached a P1-billion agreement to settle the debts of five of its companies with the Philippine National Bank.

In a news statement, RJ chair Ramon "RJ" Jacinto said the settlement involves debts owed to PNB by Rajah Broadcasting Network, RJ Ventures Realty, First Women's Credit Corp., Duty Paid Imports Inc. and RJ Music City.

"Though by our reckoning, the RJ Group owed only P350 million because the bulk of the loans went back to PNB as payment for the Buendia land property, we agreed to absorb the FWCC debt of P187 million and arrive at a P1-billion compromise so we can put this behind us and start again with PNB on a clean books basis," Jacinto said.

"There was a lot of controversial publicity generated by the previous Estrada government insinuating that the purchase of the PNB Buendia land was a behest loan when the truth was we bought the property for a very high price and PNB showed a P3.7-billion profit because of our purchase," he said.

"President Ramos had nothing to do with it," Jacinto stressed.

"The pronouncements of the previous administration, plus the collapse in the property market, made it impossible to develop the property, and had a domino effect on the cash flow of my other companies," Jacinto said.

Under the agreement, which still has to be ratified by the PNB board, the Buendia land property will revert back to PNB and the RJ group will withdraw all legal suits and encumbrances.

Apart from losing the down payment and interest payment on the land of $40 million, the RJ Group agreed to pay another P1 billion.

PNB, in turn, agreed to waive penalties and interest and consolidate the debts of the companies under Rajah Broadcasting Network.

SA KONTING BARYA,

HINDI KA

MAKAKALAMANG.

HUWAG MAGPA-SUHOL. IBOTO ANG TAMA.

RED HORSE BEER EXTRA STRONG

BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

FIRST GET RID OF CRAB MENTALITY

Filipino entrepreneurs can invade US shores

BY GREG D. GARCIA III

A COMMERCIAL building in Daly City. A new house in Pinole—a beautiful suburban community 30 minutes from San Francisco. A vacation lodge in Lake Tahoe. Not bad.

Not a bad collection of properties at all for a guy who barely 10 years ago had to not only conceptualize, but also produce and then personally carry and install the exhibit boards of his clients to various trade shows.

A "mom and pop and children operation," as he loves to quip.

But then again Gregorio Macabenta is not your average guy.

Macabenta was the president and CEO of Advertising and Marketing Associates, now DDB-AMA, one of the country's top advertising agencies, when he decided to pack his bags and take his family to the United States to prepare his kids for a bigger universe to conquer.

He also took with him his keen business sense, creative mind and sharp consumer insight that have made Milo, Nescafe and Bear Brand the giant brands that they are in the Philippines.

Today, his Minority Media Services Inc. is the most successful Filipino advertising operations in the United States.

On the way to success, Macabenta has accumulated a wealth of information and observation on how Filipino businessmen can succeed in the United States.

And how well have Filipino businesses succeeded in the United States?

"Not as well as other major Asian ethnic groups," Macabenta said.

"The fact that you can count on your fingers the Filipinos who operate in the big leagues and are very successful tell you that we have a lot of catching up to do," Macabenta added.

Macabenta observed that Filipino business establishments are usually bunched together—restaurants, cargo forwarders, remittance services, grocery stores, video stores, travel agencies—in Filipino enclaves such as Queens in New York, Jersey City in New Jersey, National City in San Diego county, Carson, West Covina,

FILIPINO/ C2

MACABENTA strikes a pose at the Effie Awards ceremony in New York. He won a Gold Effie Award for his work on Wells Fargo ATM Remittance account.

PRODUCT placement has become more noticeable in primetime TV

TV product ads get best response

DETROIT—When gaunt, undernourished Colby Donaldson took his first look at the Pontiac Aztek sports utility vehicle he won on the "Survivor" television show, he offered a rhapsody of praise.

"How wild is this thing!" he exclaimed.

An excited new car owner emoting on television's top-rated show—normally the type of great publicity money can't buy. It did for General Motors, however.

You don't have to wait for commercial breaks to see ads on TV anymore. The trend toward product placement—the subtle insertion of plugs in the body of television shows—has become more noticeable in prime-time US television.

Advertisers are looking for more creative ways to get their messages across, concerned that the proliferation of channels and the use of video recorders is making it easier than ever for viewers to avoid traditional commercial breaks.

The growth in "reality" programming makes this easier. ABC, which subtly promotes AT&T every time host Regis Philbin phones a friend on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," has let advertisers know of several product placement opportunities on its upcoming show, "The Runner."

The program will feature contestants trying to travel across the United States undetected while performing various tasks. They might be given a car, or a cellular phone, or asked to buy food in a chain restaurant; potential sponsors can bid on having their products included.

"We're not going to commercialize the hell out of the show," said Mike Shaw, president of sales for ABC. "It's a television show, first and foremost. But, organically, we have the opportunity that one or two of these missions can involve one of our clients' locations."

Product placement has been around for decades in television, and has been particularly prevalent in sports programming. But its use was relatively limited in prime-time entertainment.

Survivor

In addition to the Aztek, CBS' "Survivor" included product placements for Bud Light, Target and Doritos. Fed to hungry contestants, the Doritos were downed as if slathered with caviar.

Product placements are made "where appropriate and only if it is organic to the show and appropriate to its content," CBS spokesperson Dana McClintock said.

When Donaldson spied his new Aztek, he loved the interior, he loved the exterior, he loved the paint, he loved the tent that attaches to the rear cargo area converting the vehicle into a little camper. He even got to sleep under the SUV's big-top—as opposed to the cold, hard ground.

All this for a vehicle that many auto critics described as an ugly disaster.

GM has been a paying customer on "Survivor" since its debut last summer, said Jim Sloan, the assistant brand manager for Aztek. During the first season, Aztek appearances were limited to paid commercials.

GM won't reveal how much it pays for its "Survivor" sponsorship.

Sloan said the SUV is still selling only about 2,500 units a month—though he said it might not have sold even that many without the exposure. GM's goal is to sell at least 4,000 Azteks a month.

Dana Boyle of Evans Pontiac in Dallas said that while the dealership has sold only about 25 Azteks, "most every customer has mentioned Survivor."

Commercial Alert, an organization that advocates less commercialism on television, calls the trend toward product placement "ad creep."

"The entire TV business is getting desperate for advertising dollars," said Gary Ruskin, director of Commercial Alert. "It's a race to the bottom to stuff advertising in every nook and cranny." *AP*

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Spread your wealth

BY ELEANOR LUCAS ROQUE
SGV & Co.

SPREAD your wealth! This seems to be a forgotten credo, a complete opposite to the materialistic culture prevalent in the new millennium. Indeed, materialism and accumulation of wealth is the everyday mantra most people have consciously or unconsciously adopted.

TAX-FILES

It is quite surprising to discover that a semblance of generosity is enshrined in the Tax Code. Yes, the Tax Code. Aside from provisions on income tax and value-added tax, the Tax Code espouses generosity as a virtue and even mandates the sharing of wealth.

In fact, Section 29 of the Tax Code prohibits corporations from accumulating income beyond the reasonable needs of the business. Otherwise, the 10-percent tax on the improperly accumulated earnings tax (IAET) will be imposed.

To avoid the tax, the key is to spread the wealth and declare the income as dividends to the stockholders.

IAET

Of course, most would deny that generosity had anything to do with the imposition of the 10 percent improperly accumulated earnings tax (IAET) on domestic corporations. It is quite the opposite.

The rationale for the imposition is that shareholders would then be liable for income tax once the earnings and profits were distributed. Well, whatever you may call it, the section forces corporations to declare dividends to its stockholders.

In an ideal world, the dividends shall be used for production of more wealth, hopefully with a trickle down effect. Sadly, ours is far from being ideal and the issue of whether or not the forced declaration of dividends actually benefits society, as a whole, is an entirely different topic.

Since the passage of Republic Act 8242 (otherwise known as the Tax Reform Act of 1997), which again imposed the tax on improperly accumulated earnings starting Jan. 1, 1998, the primary issue seems to be when the corporation becomes liable to the 10-percent IAET.

In addition, the code allows the accumulation of earnings within the reasonable needs of the corporation. But what exactly is "reasonable needs"?

'Reasonable needs'

To put an end to guesswork, the BIR issued Revenue Regulations No. 2-2001 last Feb. 12, 2001 to implement the IAET provisions under Section 29 of the Tax Code of 1997.

The regulation provides that the 10-percent IAET shall be imposed on improperly accumulated taxable income of closely held domestic corporations.

Closely held corporations were defined as corporations where at least 50 percent of the voting power are held by not more than 20 individuals. All other domestic corporations were publicly held and are exempt from the IAET.

The IAET is not applicable to branches of foreign corporations, as well as to the following types of corporations:

- Banks and other non-bank financial intermediaries;
- Insurance companies;
- Taxable partnerships;
- General professional partnerships;
- Non-taxable joint ventures; and
- Enterprises registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) under RA 7916, and enterprises registered pursuant to the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992 under RA 7227, as well as other enterprises duly registered under special economic zones declared by law which enjoy payment of special tax rate on their registered operations or activities in lieu of other taxes, national or local.

Assuming that the company is not an exempt corporation, what then constitutes "improperly accumulated taxable income?"

Tax income

The regulation provides that "improperly accumulated taxable income" for a particular year is determined by adding to that year's taxable income the following: (a) income exempt from tax, (b) income excluded from gross income, (c) income subject to final tax, and (d) the amount of net operating loss carry-over (Nolco) deducted.

The taxable income as thus determined shall be reduced by the sum of the following: (a) income tax paid/payable for the taxable year, (b) dividends actually or constructively paid/issued from the applicable year's taxable income, and (c) amount reserved for the reasonable needs of the business emanating from the covered year's taxable income.

The result is multiplied by 10 percent to get the IAET.

"Reasonable needs of the business," on the other hand, refer to the immediate needs of the business, including reasonably anticipated needs.

The following instances are accumulation of earnings for the reasonable needs of the corporation:

- Allowance for the increase in the accumulation of earnings up to 100 percent of the paid-up capital of the corporation as of balance sheet date, inclusive of accumulations taken from other years;
- Earnings reserved for the definite corporate expansion projects or programs requiring considerable capital expenditure as approved by the board of directors or equivalent body;
- Earnings reserved for building, plants or equipment acquisition as approved by the board of directors or equivalent body;
- Earnings reserved for compliance with any loan covenant or preexisting obligation established under a legitimate business agreement;
- Earnings required by law or applicable regulations to be retained by the corporation or in respect of which there is a legal prohibition against its distribution;
- In case of subsidiaries of foreign corporations in the Philippines, all undistributed earnings intended or reserved for investments within the Philippines as can be proven by corporate records and/or relevant documentary evidence.

Accumulation

On the other hand, the following are instances of accumulation of profits beyond the reasonable needs of a business:

- Investment of substantial earnings and profits of the corporation in unrelated business or in stock or securities of unrelated business;
- Investment in bonds and other long-term securities;
- Accumulation of earnings in excess of 100 percent of paid-up capital, not otherwise intended for the reasonable needs of the business.

Once the profit has been subjected to the IAET, it shall no longer be subjected to IAET in later years even if not declared as dividends.

However, profits subjected to IAET, when finally declared as dividends, shall be subject to tax on dividends imposed under the Tax Code except in instances where the recipient is not subject to IAET.

Earnings or profits declared or distributed from accumulated income of each taxable year are deemed to have been paid out of the most recently accumulated profits or surplus.

However, where the dividends or portion of the said dividends declared forms part of the accumulated earnings as of Dec. 31, 1997, or from the accumulated income of a particular year, it must be supported by a duly executed board resolution.

The distinction is important, as dividends received from accumulated earnings as of Dec. 31, 1997 or earlier are not subject to tax on dividends.

Retained earnings

The regulation also allows reasonable time for the corporation to determine the unrestricted retained earnings and declare them as dividends. It provides that dividends must be declared and paid or issued not later than one year following the close of the taxable year, otherwise, the IAET, if any, should be paid within 15 days.

However, corporations with undeclared taxable income improperly accumulated from Jan. 1, 1998 to the effectivity of the regulations may still be spared from the 10-percent IAET if the income is declared and paid/issued within one month from the effectivity of the regulations.

The regulations took effect on March 26, 2001, 15 days after its publication.

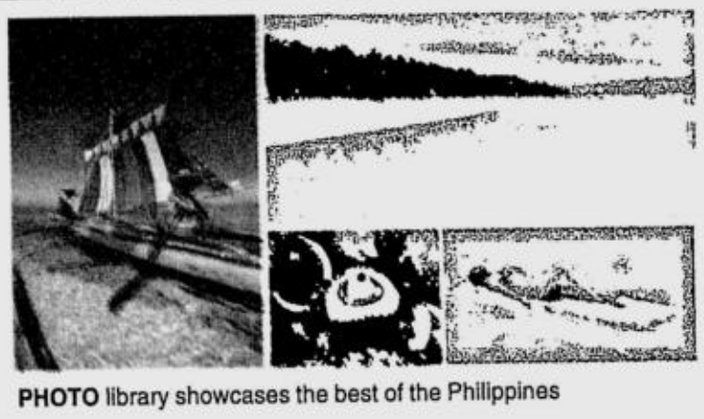

PHOTO library showcases the best of the Philippines

HK firm ushers in age of royalty-free photos

BY JOEL V. NIGOS

WHITE sand beaches, palm trees, imposing old churches, indigenous people and images from popular fiestas are among the most widely-used photos used by advertising agencies and corporations for their posters and publications such as newsletters and brochures.

Good photos are hard to come by. Photographs that come out are usually copied from other published materials and the others they have to pay royalties for.

The demand for quality but affordable photographs encouraged Miroku Images, the Manila office of Hong Kong-based Daiichi Color Group Ltd., to come up with a stock photo library that will provide clients with ready images for any promotional materials.

The company, which started its operations only last July 2000, has one of the most extensive collections of images in the industry with over a hundred categories for stock photo library and royalty-free images on CD-ROM.

"Miroku distributes glossy brochures to clients. The client only has to choose and order the image from the list of categories that satisfies his photo requirements," says Mylene Kasilag, country manager of Miroku Images.

These brochures are classified into various categories like health and sports, space and nature, slice of life, summer signs, fusion, beyond business, lifestyles and various other titles.

"The practice of clients before was to order the image. They pay every time they use any one of these images for their promotional materials," Kasilag says.

Miroku introduced a new trend by offering images royalty-free in a CD-ROM.

Clients who buy the CD can use any of the 150 images in the CD as often as they want. No more royalty fees. This would encourage more frequent use of the images on the part of the client, and eventually higher sales for Miroku.

"Each CD has over 100 images in high resolution digital file. The images are ready for color separation and for the art directors' manipulation," says Kasilag.

For its first project in the Philippines, Miroku tapped the ingenuity and creativity of its Filipino staff to come up with images that can help immortalize the country's rich culture.

The result was "Philippines: Tourism and Industry," the country's first digital collection of high-resolution photos in CD-ROM.

This is a collection of 150 photographs of festivals, churches, beaches, landmarks, agricultural and livelihood products produced by Daiichi System Graphics using the works of renowned Filipino photographers Donald Tapan, George Cabig and Lester Ledesma.

Prior to this project, all Miroku images in CDs or slides were imported.

"Each image has a brief description to aid any researcher, author, publisher or designer of a book or website in their selection of images," says Kasilag.

Miroku also markets its mother company Daiichi Color Group's main business, which is color separation and printing.

Daiichi prints annual reports such as that of United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), WG&A, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) and GMA Network Inc., glossy magazines including "Pulp" and "Mabuhay," the in-flight magazine of Philippine Airlines, coffee table books like "Camp John Hay," "Yuchengco Group," "Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," and with its latest "2001 Philippines Yearbook" and "Tawi-Tawi: The Southernmost Frontier."

Daiichi opened the first comprehensive color separation outfit in Southeast Asia in 1969 which later revolutionized the region's printing industry. It also pioneered the stock photo library business in Southeast Asia.

Filipino entrepreneurs can invade US shores

(From page C1)

Eagle Rock, and downtown LA in Los Angeles county; and Daly City, Union City and Vallejo in the San Francisco Bay Area, to mention a few popular locations.

In contrast, as an example, Korean grocery stores are everywhere. According to Kagro, the Korean American Grocers Association, they are everywhere, in suburban areas and in inner cities, catering to everyone, blacks, Hispanics, whites, Asians.

They can even be found in areas where there are few Asians, like Portland, Denver, Atlanta and Delaware.

Where do you find Thai restaurants?

Everywhere, especially where there are mainstream American customers. Today even Vietnamese eateries are starting to make their presence felt in areas where Filipinos fear to tread.

Oops, there goes the market

"It's bad enough that Filipinos are not venturing beyond our communities. What's worse is that we are being invaded and, a lot of times, dominated by other ethnic groups on our own turf," Macabenta points out.

Macabenta relates that he bought this brand of *patis* and *gata* at a Filipino-owned grocery store, only to discover that both were from Thailand.

Recently he came upon a brand of coconut milk called Mabuhay. It was also made in Thailand. This led Macabenta to quip in his column in BusinessWorld that Filipino food manufacturers are *"namatay sa Thai."*

Macabenta believes Filipino businessmen should break away from this insularity.

"Two and half million Filipinos represent less than one percent of the total US population, so why limit ourselves to scrambling for morsels of this small piece of the pie while ignoring the remaining 99 percent," Macabenta says.

Going for a bigger market

But there are a few success stories that should inspire Filipino-Americans to break away from insularity.

Macabenta tells the story of Maniflo.

The company was among the first to offer remittance services to Filipinos in California. But when the big boys, like LBC and the Philippine banks, began to dominate the service, Pol Agpaoa, realized he would not survive if he depended on the Filipino customers alone.

So he explored the Mexican market.

Mexicans, after all, have the same motivations for coming to America as Filipinos: earn money to send to their loved ones.

By reaching out to Hispanics, Maniflo not only survived but also prospered.

Also in San Diego, one of the leading makers of tortilla is a fellow named Gabriel. He is a Filipino and owns several Mexican restaurants.

The Filipino-owned Seafood City Supermarket chain in Southern California is dominant in the Filipino market, but it has also succeeded in developing a strong secondary market among the Hispanics. And the Seafood City store in North Hollywood is popular among Armenians and Russians, as well.

The hot 'pan de sal' and 'sago' syndrome

"When Filipinos in the US decide to become entrepreneurs, they often base their strategy on prior demand—demand already created by others," Macabenta explains.

"Enterprises are put up to fill traditional needs that are already filled by competitors, instead of looking for new needs to fill and new niches to dominate.

Not surprisingly, the business plan ends up in cutthroat competition, with price-cutting as the marketing weapon of choice."

A cursory look at the Los Angeles Fil-Am directory confirms Macabenta's observation.

Out of 1585 businesses listed, 45 percent are in medical, health and accounting services; 19.5 percent are in real estate, mortgage and home financing, insurance, travel, video rental and cargo forwarding; and 13.6 percent are in the grocery, restaurant, bakery and catering business.

In other words, 78.1 percent are engaged in the overcrowded, traditional enterprises.

Very few are in manufacturing. Fewer still are in non-traditional, information and high technology enterprises.

In San Diego, the situation is basically the same.

Needed: marketing orientation

But whether one chooses to establish a niche in the Filipino community or in the broader Asian-American market or in the mainstream, the only way for Filipino entrepreneurs to survive and grow in the US market is to embrace marketing and its disciplines.

"Unfortunately, many still don't," according to Macabenta.

"The fundamental marketing rules haven't changed. Marketing still begins and ends with the consumer. You must find consumer needs to fill. And when traditional needs are already being filled by competitors, you must find new and better ways to fill them," Macabenta reminds would-be entrepreneurs.

Macabenta cites as an example, Johnny Air Cargo.

When everyone was offering cargo forwarding, Johnny Air Cargo in Queens, New York, offered a courier service that delivered packages as fast as DHL and FedEx but at less cost.

Having found a better way to fill a need, Johnny Air Cargo grew rapidly, expanding to other major cities in the US, Europe and Asia.

The other important point that Macabenta emphasized is customer satisfaction.

While all of these are basic, Macabenta relates, "Even the best of us tend to take them for granted." He cites the case of San Miguel Beer.

Even San Miguel goofs

San Miguel Beer is, undoubtedly, one of the best beers in the world. And yet, in a consumer study conducted by San Miguel USA in 1989, the beer was only No. 5 among imported brands drank by Filipinos in the US. One reason was poor distribution. The other reason was poor community relations. Filipinos felt that San Miguel had been ignoring them. Thus the community ignored the beer right back.

Then in 1990, San Miguel USA launched an aggressive marketing campaign, combining expanded distribution with media advertising, sales promotion, special events and community relations. The campaign was a concerted effort to reach out and literally reconcile with the Filipino community.

In one year, San Miguel Beer had a volume growth of 27 percent, the first growth in over a decade.

The year after that spectacular performance, San Miguel appointed a new distributor-marketer, Barton Beers. Barton which also imports Tsing Tao Beer and Corona Beer, concentrated only on distribution and ignored advertising, promotions and community relations.

The result: San Miguel Beer sales took a nosedive and today the brand has virtually disappeared from the marketplace.

Seafood City gets it right

In contrast, there's Macabenta's client, Seafood City, the largest Filipino-owned full-service supermarket chain in the United States, with four large stores in San Diego City, four in Los Angeles, two in National City and stores in Mira Mesa and Chula Vista.

Its success may be attributed to a combination of modern store management system, a complete product mix, competitive pricing, and sustained advertising, promotions and community relations.

The stores are dominant in the Filipino communities they serve.

Despite the chain's success, Seafood City management maintains constant vigilance against the threat of Vietnamese and Taiwanese competition and also against the inroads of the major American chains.

The Filipino-owned companies that are growing and operating profitably in the United States are, predictably, those that are applying fundamental marketing disciplines. In that highly competitive environment, marketing is the name of the game.

"If you don't know how to play it, you lose," Macabenta quips.

Sigh, if only the crabs would organize

Despite the numbers—Filipinos are the largest Asian ethnic group in California and, most likely in the entire United States—we lack the economic and political clout of such smaller communities as the Koreans and the Vietnamese, and we are most certainly behind the Chinese and Japanese.

Blame it on the Filipino's lack of unity. Filipinos have been unable to use their impressive number in a concentrated, powerful and synergetic manner.

Contrast this with what the Koreans have reaped with the Korean American Grocers Association, an association made up mostly of mom-and-pop stores.

With over 23,000 members in the US and Canada and active chapters in several major cities, Kagro makes bulk purchases from grocery vendors at preferential prices.

Even AT&T offers Kagro substantial discounts. So do insurance providers, shipping and transport firms and suppliers of equipment facilities.

Working with Kosca or the Korea Super Chain Association, Kagro is able to import merchandise from Korea at substantial savings.

Is there any reason why Filipino businesses cannot do the same?

Macabenta can give you the answers but implementing the solution will take some time. A very long time.

JAIME Zobel,left, and Alex Esclamado together with Macabenta at the launch of Ayala eCenter in San Francisco. Minority Media Services handled the launch for Ayala Corp.

OPENING of the Jollibee store in Union City in the San Francisco Bay Area. Macabenta's company is the advertising agency of Jollibee in the United States.

JAPANESE FIRM'S BRAND CAMPAIGN

From typewriters to faxes, and beyond

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MARKETING STRATEGY

MANY Filipinos still equate the brand "Brother" with electric typewriters and sewing machines. Five months ago, Brother International Philippines Corp. set out to change that mindset. The company is now building a brand that also calls to mind the latest in business machines, telecommunications products and machine tools.

Takatoshi Kawakami, general manager of Brother's Philippine operations, said in an interview that Brother International set up an office in the Philippines because of the country's huge potential to absorb its line of business machines, led by its multi-feature desktop facsimile machines.

"We are focused on business machines, and the facsimile is our main product. People still use fax machines even in the US, and it is still increasing because we offer many functions. Our fax is not just a fax. It can also be a copier and a scanner," Kawakami explains.

Brother has devised a marketing campaign that includes product road shows in key shopping centers to increase consumers' awareness of Brother's wide array of products and backstop efforts to position its fax as the best the market has to offer.

Brother International is the leading brand in fax machines in the United States, Indonesia and Singapore, and is a market leader in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Brother wants to add the Philippines to its list of big markets.

"We are certainly not the cheapest in the market, but our prices are very competitive considering the many functions of our machines. Even small businessmen can afford our machines," Kawakami says.

Brother recently concluded two product road shows and was scheduling a third one to be held shortly in Alabang.

Brother Philippines is also putting emphasis on customer satisfaction to make sure its branding campaign is not about empty promises.

Brother, for instance, included a two-year warranty for fax machine products and laser printers, the first in the industry.

Brother has also established several service centers in key cities nationwide to service the products under warranty. It has also authorized several service centers in Metro Manila to take care of customer's requests.

Brother has also integrated sales, marketing and technical support with the set-up of its Philippine office. It is now the sole distributor of office machines like high-speed laser printers, P-touch electronic labeling systems as well as typewriters and sewing machines.

Customer satisfaction

This is in line with its primary goal of providing the ultimate in customer satisfaction. As Brother says, customers are the "kings and queens" of the organization.

As an initial treat to customers, Brother has an ongoing promo through which customers who purchase Brother's products and mail their extended warranty certificates get a raffle ticket for a chance to spend three days and two nights in Subic.

Kawakami adds that Brother has a special campaign tied in with the sponsorship of the Jordan Formula 1 team. Like F-1 cars, Brother wants to stand for fast and high technology.

THE MULTI-FUNCTION fax is Brother's flagship product

Customers also get an F-1 T-shirt for every purchase of a fax machine and a Jordan bag for the high-end fax machines.

"Customer satisfaction and continuous innovations of Brother products are the top concerns of our corporate agenda. As our logo states, we intend to always be by the customer's side to assist in every way," Kawakami says.

Avon tries new retail ventures

NEW YORK—Avon Products Inc. aimed to reassure investors that they're on track for sustained growth, updating them on a host of expansion plans, from its new retail venture to its distribution plans in China.

"We have fought long and hard for a new level of credibility," Andrea Jung, Avon's chief executive officer, said Tuesday. "Avon's best days are right here in front of us. We're moving boldly ahead."

Jung reconfirmed Wall Street's consensus estimate of 57 cents per share for the second quarter and $2.09 for the full year. Jung added that Avon's long-term goals are a 10-percent gain in local currency sales, 10 percent per-share growth and a 12-percent increase in beauty sales.

Avon, the world's largest direct seller of beauty products, said it continues on a cost-saving mission. Last year, the company saved $100 million. This year, it's focusing on cutting costs in product development and marketing.

Avon officials are bullish about growth opportunities in overseas markets. In Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, Avon said it projects a compounded 20-percent growth rate in local currency sales over the next couple of years.

In Poland, Avon's market share for cosmetics and fragrance should increase from 15.2 percent in 1999 to a projected 20.5 percent this year. The company's share in Hungary should increase from 24.5 percent to 29.5 percent during the same time.

China is also getting hotter. Avon currently operates 3,463 outlets there, and plans to increase that figure to 4,171 this year. The company is tripling its advertising to $5 million, according to S.K. Kao, president of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore markets.

The goal is to generate $150 to $200 million and operate 6,000 outlets by 2003, Kao said. The company's sales in China are currently about $71 million.

Meanwhile, Avon wants to increase its US market share by expanding into new areas, including an aromatherapy line that made its debut this month.

Avon officials also stressed to analysts that the launch of beComing, its new retail brand, will target a new audience and will not siphon off business from direct sales. The lifestyle cosmetics line is set to be in 200 J.C. Penney Co. Inc., and Sears, Roebuck stores this August.

Ultimately, beComing is slated for 1,600 stores.

Shares of Avon were down 11 cents to close at $43.73 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange. *AP*

Microsoft Mac unit focuses on profits

(From page C4)

team doesn't see the need to grow quickly. Browne says the unit is "highly profitable" and he wants it to stay that way.

"We'll be steady state for a while. We need to make sure it's profitable so Microsoft continues to invest," Browne said. He declined to give revenue or profit details.

But some observers and analysts speculate Microsoft still sells Mac software mainly to defend against the government's charges that it used its Windows monopoly to harm rivals.

"It is a profitable unit but I think that if it hadn't been for the trial, given how Microsoft typically approaches a competitive situation, I think they would have been inclined to let Apple decline," Giga's Enderle said.

Browne maintains financial viability, not political cover, is the reason for Microsoft's continued support.

"It sounds like a good story somebody made up from the outside, but it doesn't affect our thinking. You can't run the business thinking about the courts," Browne said.

"Bill Gates, by the way, is a huge Mac fan and he has a warm spot in his heart for the Mac platform, and it hurt him to see our customers suffering," Browne said.

Apple fanatics, recalling the ruthless competition of the 1990s, may roll their eyes at such sentiments. But Microsoft appears eager to put the past behind it.

"A couple of years ago it was a question of how committed is Microsoft to the Mac," said Mary Rose Becker, a group product manager who works on marketing.

"I think we're past those days." *Reuters*

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Dot com firm divines profits from horoscope

BY AMELITA R. REMO

THE DRASTIC fall of the technology-heavy Nasdaq pierced the big bubble that was the dot com industry. With venture capitalist firms and investors burned and wary, the IT industry now has to come up with real business models that will generate what old economy companies did well over the decades - profit.

Filipino-owned business portal i-Quanxi.com believes that it found the right business model by combining the unprecedented popularity of text messaging with the best of wireless data communication, and with the Filipinos' penchant for fortune telling and horoscope thrown into the mix for good measure.

Headed by its founder, Christian Oliver Chua, i-Quanxi.com was launched last June 2000 and strives to reinvent the portal format by offering entertainment such as Feng Shui, horoscope, fortune telling, matchmaking and match finding.

Other services include free e-mail and chat bulletin boards. English to Chinese (Fookien and Mandarin) and Japanese translations are also available. Site locators using state-of-the-art GPS mapping are also accessible to its users.

Quanxi

True to its name, "Quanxi," which means "connections" in Mandarin, has forged several tie-ups and agreements with various companies such as Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom.

These firms' mobile phone service acts as a medium that connects the subscriber with Quanxi's content.

Quanxi is focused on text messaging because of the huge volume of text messages that the networks process everyday. He says the 70 million text messages that Filipinos send every month are equivalent to Europe's amount of text messages in a year.

Chua says fortune telling is one of the most popular features, largely because of the Filipino culture, and this means revenues for Quanxi.

The fortune-telling mechanism is based on actual Chinese fortune telling, or I'Ching, in which fortune is based on a flip of a coin.

There are 22 options or categories to choose from depending on the nature of the question. Smart subscribers can access Quanxi's content through 211 and 2333 for Globe. Your fortune, the content of which still comes from the company's US server, will be immediately sent back in the form of a text message.

Feng Shui also works in the same manner—that is, the user will be asked a series questions, to which he/she would reply. The results will also be sent through a text message.

One may think that after getting one's fortune, this feature might lose its novelty. After all, one can only so much check one's fortune in a day. However, each question and each different combination of flipping the "lucky coin" yield various responses every time.

Fortune telling

Each answer to questions posed by Quanxi's fortune telling or Feng Shui networks means revenue for Quanxi.

Chua says subscribers pay P2 for each message and Quanxi gets a portion under a revenue scheme with Smart and Globe. He says this makes his revenue model different from other dot com companies that rely on banner advertisements to generate revenue.

He says companies abroad that want to provide Quanxi's content to their subscribers have already approached him.

Chua says the revenue from the first few months of operation were already enough to pay for operating expenses and even exceeded his expectations.

He believes that Filipinos use the service because the little fortunes add zest and excitement to subscribers, including businessmen.

Chua adds that the service is especially popular with Chinese business that consult Feng Shui and fortune telling and consider them an important part of their daily habit.

Building relationships and connections, providing accurate data as well as packaging a bit of entertainment in order to find the "right Quanxi" are what i-Quanxi.com aims to achieve.

"i-Quanxi.com's quests are to re-establish what were once landbridges and silkroads, where Chinese and other traders from different countries used to cross, and to revive it now through the high technology lines of communication," Chua says.

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Microsoft Mac unit focuses on profits

REDMOND, Washington—Microsoft Corp. has a message for all those who still see the software giant as a rival to Apple Computer Corp. Get over it.

Clashes between Microsoft's Bill Gates and Apple's Steve Jobs as they vied for control of the personal computer industry are the stuff of legend.

Recently the combative stances have relaxed into more amicable postures.

Microsoft's support for Apple is embodied in its Macintosh Business Unit, a team of 185 Mac users who crank out software that many say is better than the stuff made for Windows.

"Our relationship with Apple has never been better," Kevin Browne, general manager of the "Mac B," said in a recent interview at Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

That relationship centers on Office, Microsoft's popular software package that includes the Word processor, Excel spreadsheet and PowerPoint presentation softwares.

In the mid-1990s, the relationship was on the rocks. Mac users were infuriated with crash-prone Office and the growing gap between releases for Windows and the Macintosh.

Apple itself started struggling, and by 1997, Microsoft pondered dropping support for the Mac, a move that analysts say would have killed the pioneering computer maker.

Instead, in a stroke that stunned Apple's fiercely loyal user base, Microsoft announced at a Mac convention in 1997 that it was investing $150 million in its beleaguered rival.

And rather than have the same programmers write software for Windows and the Mac, a separate development team was split off in 1997 and given their own budget and planning freedom.

Recovering soul

"Our business was down, our customer satisfaction was way down," Browne said. "Microsoft took a step back and said, 'What are we going to do with the Mac?' Obviously the easy thing to do would be to say we're not going to do this any more."

"But it's a pretty good business. Compared to Windows it doesn't look big, but as an independent company it looks all right. We sort of spun it off internally and said there should be this group of people to cater to this Mac user," Browne said.

The result, as measured by the latest product, Office 2001, has been a resounding success.

Released last October after 30 months of development, the software has sold half a million copies. Everything from pull-down menus to product packaging conforms to the hip Mac aesthetic. A new, Mac-only application was included. Analysts praised the product as better than the Windows version.

"We probably have the ability to take more risks than they do. We are opinionated, design-oriented people," said Michael Connolly, a group program manager in the unit.

The team also makes Mac versions of the Internet Explorer Web browser and the Outlook Express e-mail client. Microsoft claims both are the most popular applications of their type among Mac users.

"In the last four years we've recovered our soul to a large extent. It's understanding that Mac users are different from Windows users," Browne said.

OS X and .Net

Now the team has a new, daunting challenge: taking all the features of Office 2001 and rebuilding them on Apple's new operating system, OS X (pronounced OS Ten). They want to launch the product, code-named Office X, this fall, a development time of 12 months, less than half that of Office 2001.

Based on the industrial-strength Unix platform, OS X has an entirely new codebase and user interface. Those are hurdles for programmers who must not only get the software plumbing right, but also give the product the right look and feel.

"What we are trying to do now is transitioning the business over to OS X," Browne said. "The adjustment has been slow to get back to same level of productivity as on OS 9 because it's such a new system."

The Mac BU is also trying to figure out how to capitalize on Microsoft's sweeping .Net strategy to turn software into services delivered over the Web. The latest version of Office for Windows, due out May 31, takes the first step toward .Net by sporting new collaborative features and "smart tags" that can do things like pull stock quotes directly off the Web and plunk them into a document or spreadsheet.

"On the .Net initiative the watchword for us is to try to ensure that the Mac customer can get these services. It is a little premature for us to detail how we go about doing it," Browne said.

One analyst said it should actually be easier to transfer, or "port," those features to the Mac because OS X and Windows now have much more in common than in the past.

"The Windows 2000 core and (OS X's) Unix core have a lot more similarity than the old Mac OS did with Windows. The port should go easier going forward," said Rob Enderle, an analyst with technology consultancy Giga Information Group.

Profits vs politics

With the Mac market fairly stable, Microsoft's

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LIFESTYLE Trend Spotting

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

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Michele Sison's utopian look

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

WEARING prettily embroidered kerchief blouses, easy skirts and flared pants and a grin on their glossy lips, the happy debs of designer Michele Sison look as if they have achieved a utopia of sorts. The future belongs to the youth. As if we don't already know.

In future society columns, you'll be seeing the names of Maan Gonzalez, Margarita Padilla, Audrey Tan and Paola Zobel—the models for this pictorial. Tan has already appeared in fashion magazines and equestrienne Zobel is poised to compete in the Southeast Asian Games.

These girls have been born in an era of sinking consumer spending and uncertainty. Like most women, they are content with fashionably restrained style basics. Basics are de rigueur because they are consistent with the mood of the times by being practical, versatile and fun. Besides, who wants an overcrowded closet?

For INQUIRER's pictorial, Sison created pieces that clients keep asking for. "I go with basic pieces. I believe in function over form, but I put a twist to it."

She adds motifs in keeping with the trends abroad. For instance, a basic skirt looks modern with epaulettes and belt loops in keeping with the military look.

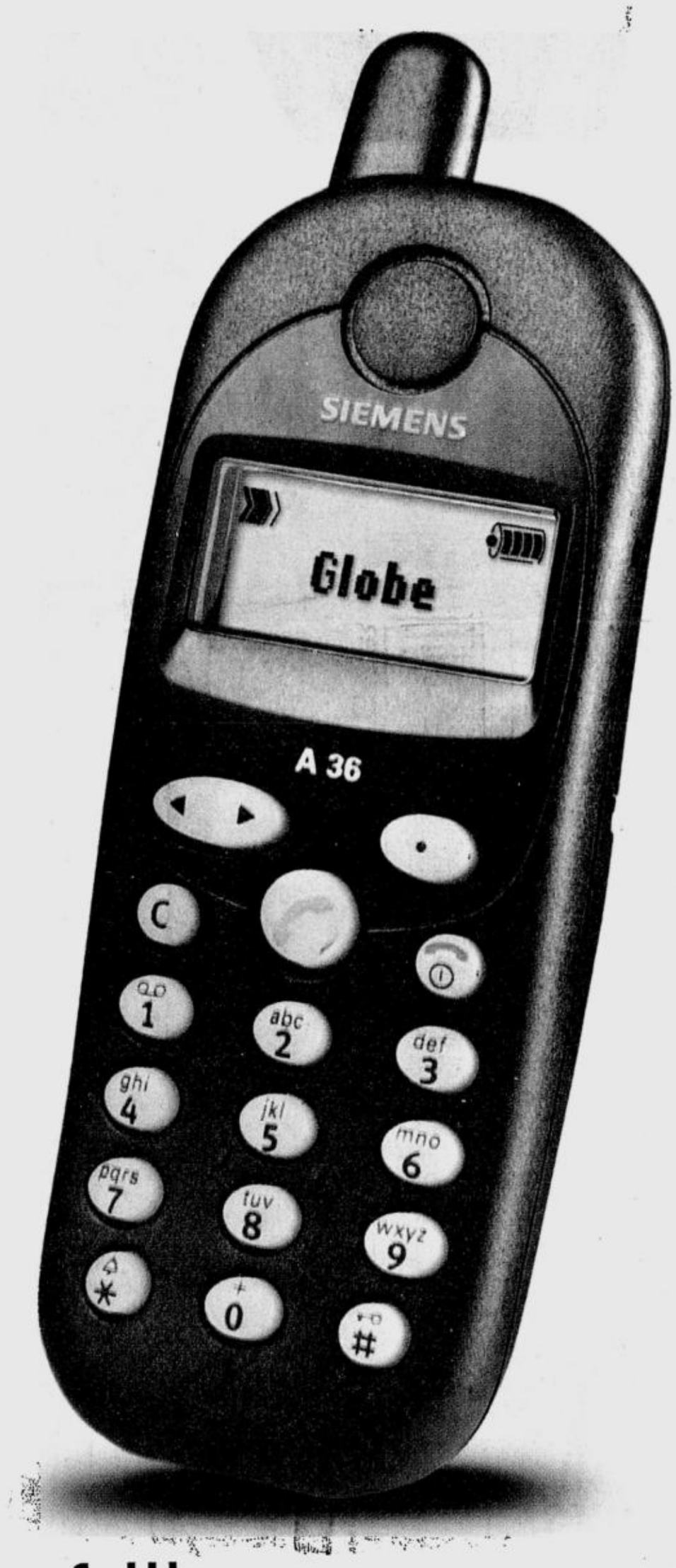
Permutations

Sison says her styles undergo permutations. From a basic pattern, a handkerchief blouse may undergo several looks. The straps can be halter, T-back or one-sided. A blouse can be worn as a wrap or as a bandeau. A pair of capri pants, edged with ruffles, evokes the flared silhouette. After a couple of seasons, the ruffles can be trimmed and the legs pared down to a straight silhouette.

MICHELE/ p.D6

MODEL wears a black satin outfit and an evening clutch edged with crystals. JOHNNY VILLENA

BATON BAG. Sison's update of the '80s clutch bag is sleeker and made from lizard skin with a gold chain strap. JOHNNY VILLENA



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Get yourself a beauty fix in a 'Manhattan' minute

TRENDS change as often as you retouch your lipstick. How are you expected to make wise beauty decisions at a moment's notice? If you're anything like today's discriminate beauty shopper, you'll probably start the process by picking up hearsay from a stylish friend, surf a popular beauty website or get advice from your favorite beauty magazine. Armed with a list, you head to the mall and log in countless hours testing out various products. By the time you finish trying out all the shades of the hip new red lipstick, the color trend has already moved on to pink and you end up starting the process all over again. Who has the time? Not to mention the money to burn in today's economic crunch climate? Why not do as makeup mavens do and "shortcut" by opting for tried-and-tested brands? Brands with proven track records that make it a bestseller with today's hottest makeup artists. If that's what you're searching for—look no further as Maybelline is the No. 1 makeup brand in the USA.

Maybelline utilizes a fresh and sexy approach toward beauty, taking its cue from New York City, which most consider the epicenter of the fashion world. Due to its home base, Maybelline is constantly updated on the latest runway colors and the next "big thing." It's a brand that leaves nothing to chance and is the ideal product for the woman who likes the latest thing at the best price in all her beauty products.

Real beauty junkies know that not all red lipsticks are created equal. Shade and formula often spell the difference from looking either "Downtown Bar Girl" to "Uptown Diva." So if you're a fashion plate with a no-nonsense, practical streak, opt for a brand which gives you the most trend mileage for the buck. Not only does this brand take inspiration from New York, one of the world's key fashion meccas, but all its products undergo rigorous formula tests before it hits the shelves. Thus the promise on the package is exactly the makeup result you get.

Maybelline's ability to keep up with trends while selling them at a reasonable price is the main contributing factor to its top position in the US. As the USA is one of the world's most competitive and discriminating cosmetic markets, this is a major achievement in itself.

Maybelline understands that women are often pressed for time, forever on the go and prefer products that offer maximum results at minimum fuss. Thus it created star products like Wondercurl, a lash-curling mascara now No. 1 in Asia; Watershine Lipstick with the ultra shine of lip gloss and a bestseller in the Philippines, and Express Finish, which is the popular quick-dry nail polish.

Couple that with a history of "makeup hall of fame greats" such as Greatlash in the world-famous pink and green tube—a fashion industry staple, and the ever-popular Twin Eyebrow pencil in the economic 2-for-1 packaging. Now with its latest innovation Express Makeup, a 3-in-1 stick foundation in a sheer and oil-free formulation, Maybelline is again poised to launch another beauty favorite.

SARAH Michelle Gellar is Maybelline's spokesperson. (Photo taken from Cosmo)

GLAM MILLA. Her look focuses on sexy playful lips and eyes that spell glamour gal. Apply shimmer eyeshadow like Crea Couleur in Blanc Glace or Beige Metal on the lids and a dark brown shadow like Orient Brown on the crease. Finish with two coats of Longitude mascara in Black. Accentuate the lips with a vibrant creamy color like Colour Riche in Chocolate.

How to look like a supermodel

MILLA Jovovich, Longitude cover girl and L'Oréal Paris muse, epitomizes the need of all women who need diversity in their look. Milla is a chameleon who can look innocent and vulnerable in one moment and sultry and seductive in the next.

Her look is highlighted by L'Oréal Cosmetics' new mascara called Longitude. It combines the attributes of high-quality care and technological advancement with a refined choice of colors and formulations.

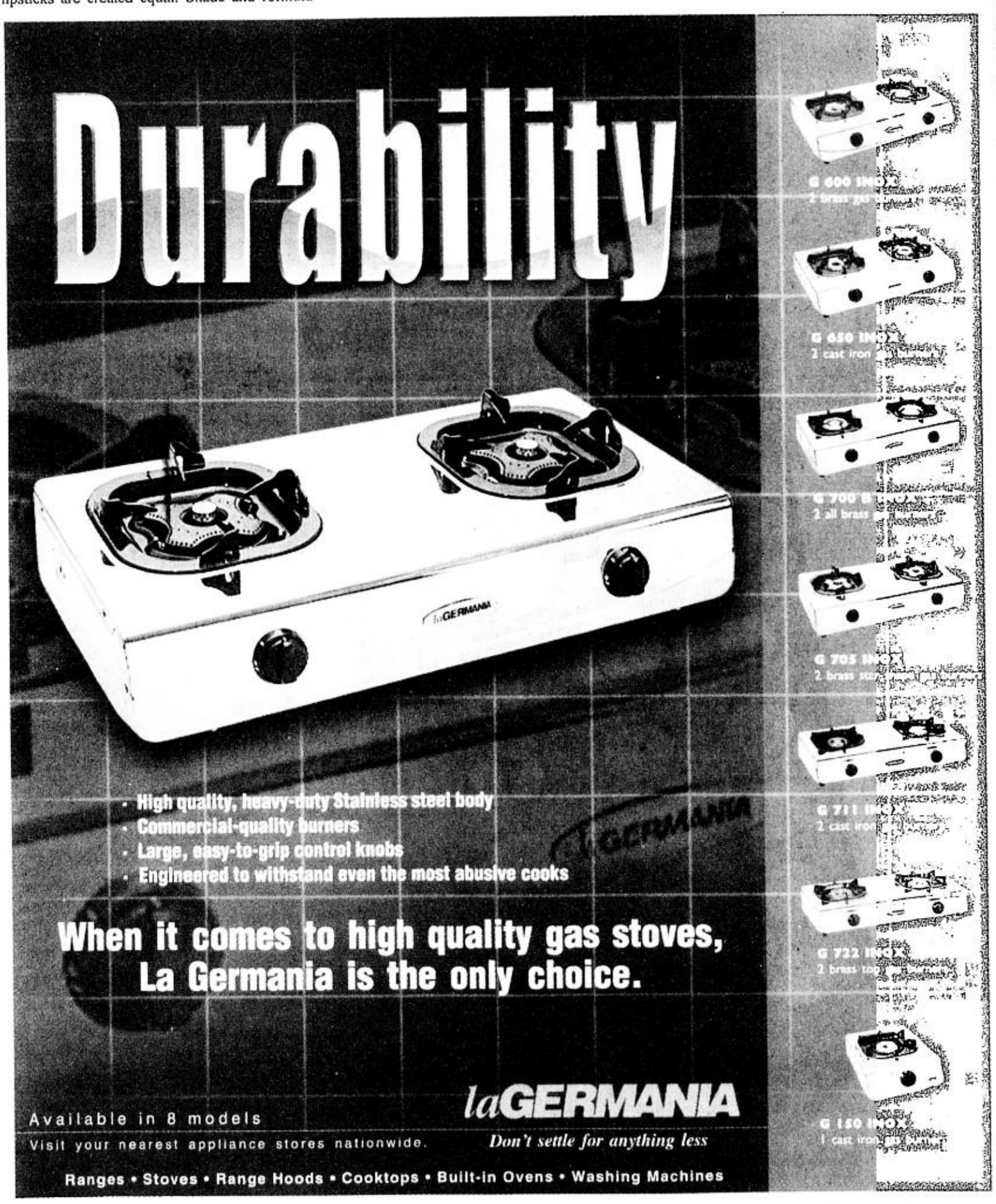
Longitude mascara is a patented formula combining Extensel technology (a complex made of polymers) to lengthen lashes, and Ceramide R to condition and smoothen lashes. It was developed exclusively for Asian women, who complained of short lashes, which tended to droop. Longitude's high- definition brush helps lift your lashes to prevent drooping while stretching and extending the polymer right to the end of the lash.

RETRO MILLA. Milla's funky retro look is really all about her hair. Using Hair Mascara, add a few strands of color of blue and gold on your hair. End with two coats of Longitude in black for that dramatic come-hither look.

WEEKEND MILLA. The secret to a great "no-makeup" look is great skin. Moisturize before applying makeup (try L'Oreal Plenitude Hydra Fresh). Then use a lightweight foundation like Feel Naturale 2-way cake. Apply beige shadow and brown liner to your lids. Apply two coats of mascara in brown and finish off with a peach blush and a sheer lip color.

ROMANTIC MILLA. Romance spells flushed cheeks and lush lips. To achieve Milla's look, go with a pink blush (like Feel Naturale Rustica or Mauvelous) and apply it on areas where you would normally flush after heavy exercise. Complete the romantic effect; apply a deep pink lipstick like Colour Riche Burnt Pink. Swirl some Longitude mascara in brown and you're good to go.

CYBER MILLA. This look is all about smoky smoldering eyes. To get this look, apply a shivery blue eyeshadow like Crea Couleur in Bleu Metal on your lids and on the rim of your eyes. Then use a darker blue or gray shadow on the crease of the eyes. Line the eyes with a black liner, smudging the edges with cotton to soften the line. Finish with two coats of Longitude mascara.



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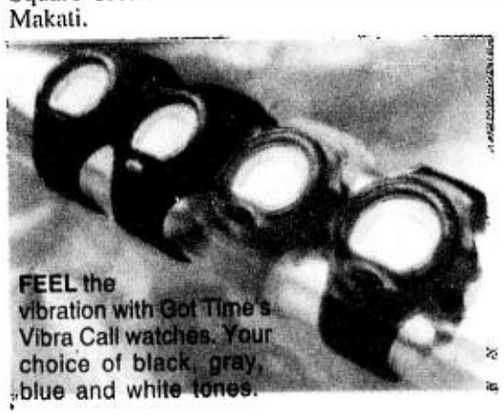
EVERYTHING today is moving on the fast lane. And before you lose track of time, be sure to synchronize with the way things are going.

The new Got Time? watch collection at SM tells time with a lot of attitude. Watch out for some cool and trendy ways to be on time: Rectangular Potpourri watches with floral-designed transparent straps; hip digital watches in techno colors; Trimax silver pink and blue watches with water-resistant features; Vibra Call features that keep you not only on time, but also in touch.

Hip watches at hip prices, the new Got Time? collection is available at the Ladies Accessories Department of SM Ortigas and the Boutique Square section of SM North Edsa and SM Makati.



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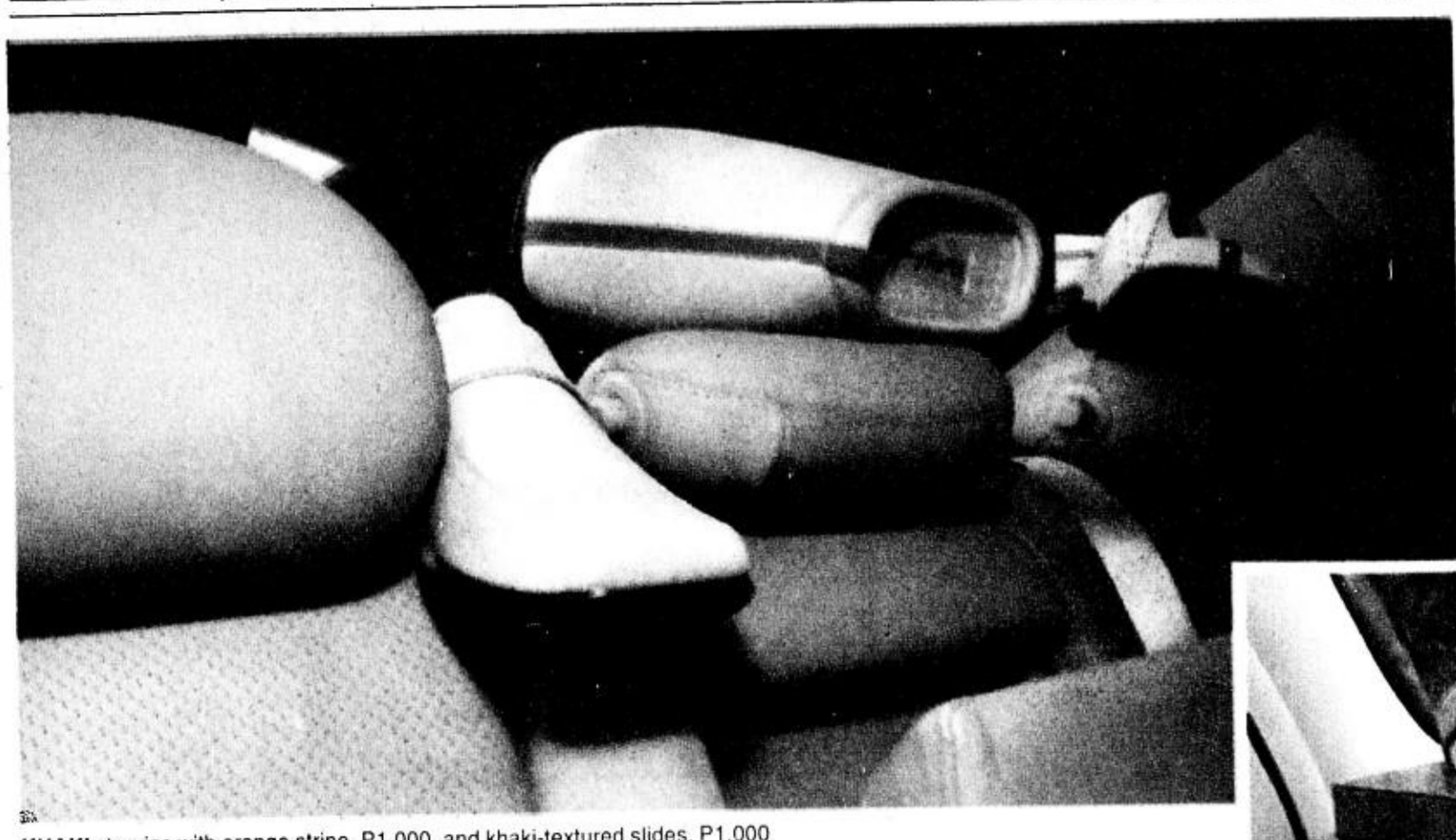
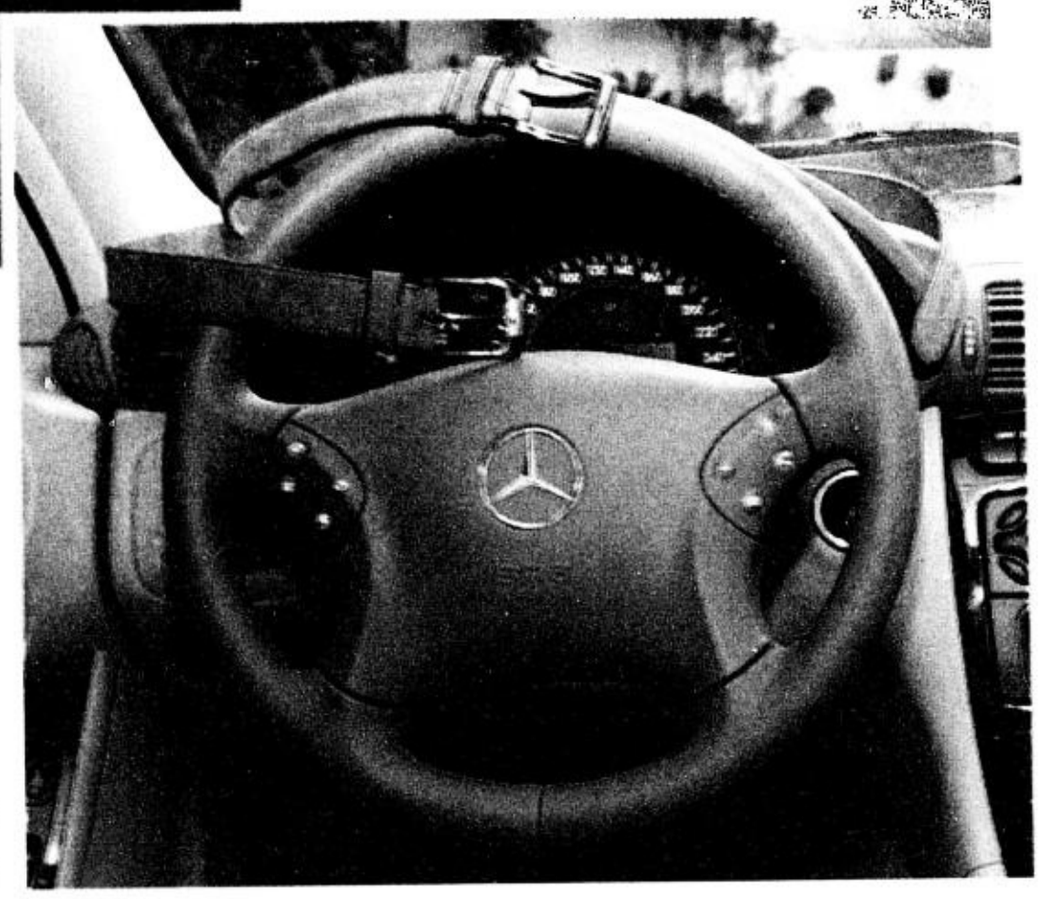


KHAKI step-ins with orange stripe, P1,000, and khaki-textured slides, P1,000

'The Mexican' captures the colors of summer: sandy, camel and deep browns, and neutrals

ALL ITEMS FROM RUSTY LOPEZ MERCEDES BENZ 2001 FOUR-DOOR SEDAN FROM CATS MOTORS INC.



SUEDE belts, P200 each

Zone of neutrality

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

SOME of the best sights and sounds can be found on the big screen, where the right color scheme and styling combine with great cinematography to compose beautiful spectacles. But this is not the case in "The Mexican." Even if Brad Pitt's dirty blonde hair complemented his skin tone, the movie hardly provides a stylish look.

But the movie captures the colors of summer: dirt roads, sand, camel and deep browns, and neutrals. Even if prints are in almost everywhere, neutrals are still preferred by many. Even neutrals dominate shoes.

A man is never fully dressed without a decent pair of shoes or step-ins. It is not a crime to be seen in slipper-like shoes—as long as you're not in the middle of a serious career. A pair of khaki-textured step-ins will work well for those laid-back days.

Accessories must not be ignored. Belts are always polished when paired with slacks and a clean-cut shirt. An alternative to leather would be suede. Suedes in a dark green, khaki, or tan are good. A dark green belt worn with jeans or khaki slacks is decent; a khaki belt worn with jeans, blue or black is also safe; and, a lighter shade of khaki paired with basically anything casual works well, too. A white bottom is also interesting and can create a sense of style. White shorts, for instance, paired with a navy shirt and a dark green or khaki belt is handsome and stylish.

SHINE on in this purple tee paired with denim capri pants.

PURPLE sleeveless choker neck top in chiffon material with glitzy pink linear geometric patterns

SPARKLING SENSATION. Chocolate brown tube top with glittered lip prints and fur detailing. Matching necktie for accent

Go for the glitz

IT'S a shining moment for tops at the SM Boutique Square.

And today's take on sparkle is both subtle and scintillating: Elegantly embellished gold and silver spun fabrics... a sprinkling of beadwork... tiny scattered sequins... glazed glamour tops.

Go for the glitz with glittery tops. The collection is available at the SM Boutique Square of all SM stores.

A scent that smolders

IF you think you can imagine the scent of tobacco flower, think again.

The tobacco flower (*nicotiana*) is a hothouse plant. It needs warm temperatures, fertile earth, daylong sun and lots of tender loving care before it will yield its intoxicating, richly scented flowers. Blooming only after the heat of the day, the tobacco flower suffuses the balmy evening air with its heady aroma, which is sensual, warm and utterly irresistible.

Inspired by this natural beauty, The Body Shop Tobacco Flower range is their newest, most exotic and certainly most unexpected fragrance. It is a blend of precious warm wood, rich floral and crisp spice. The contrast of seductive floral accords with darker, unexpected ingredients creates its edgy, intoxicating nature. Top notes of clementine, white ginger, carrot seed, cardamon and water green accords inspire intense vitality while a heart of intoxicating florals marry purple freesia, heliotrope, mimosa and rose. Textured warmth is added to the structure with notes of Indian sandalwood, white amber, tonka absolute, cashmeran, teak woods and clear musks.

The range compromises a compact selection of products that mean you can enjoy the intense scent of tobacco flower both on your body and in your space.

If you still have misconceptions, pack them away. There's more than one way to inhale the scent of the tobacco plant and The Body Shop Tobacco Flower Fragrance range comes without a government health warning.

Nicotiana (pronounced nee-KO-shee-ay-na and rhymes with Louisiana), genus of annual and perennial herbs and, more rarely shrubs belonging to the nightshade (*Solanaceae*) family. The genus, which contains 67 species, is native mainly to the western hemisphere. Several species are widely cultivated in gardens in warm temperate regions of the world, both for ornament and fragrance, and in the case of Nicotiana tabacum as a crop grown commercially for smoking.

Despite the presumptions of Jean Nicot, the tobacco plant had been in cultivation as far back as pre-Columbian Mexico. Yet its use as an ornamental garden plant is relatively new and currently on trend, especially for some species which are celebrated for their intoxicating fragrance and others for their old-fashioned blooms.

Skin care tips for sensitive skin

HAVING clear and supple skin does not happen overnight. Work on achieving that distinctive glow by following these tips:

- Make skin cleansing an integral part of your routine. Metropolitan's pollution, make-up and everyday pressures can take their toll on the skin.
- Choose the right cleanser. Today's market offers a myriad of skin cleansers. It's important to know that cleansers with a highly acidic or alkaline pH level can harm the skin. To prevent irritations or rashes, use lipid-free cleansers.
- Treat your skin to mildness. Use Cetaphil Skin Cleansers, the mildest skin cleanser for all skin types and ages.

Its nondrying, nonirritating and fragrance-free formulation leaves a thin film of moisture on the skin. Cetaphil can also be used to remove makeup.

For those suffering from acne, Cetaphil is a pretreatment facial cleanser. Its mild cleansing action prepares the skin for the application of the prescribed topical acne medication.

Recommended by dermatologists, Cetaphil can be used with or without water leaving the skin smooth, soft and supple.

Cetaphil now also comes attractively packaged in a container with soft, rounded contours for a convenient and easy grip in 250 ml and 60 ml sizes. Also available are the Cetaphil Gentle Cleansing Bar, which is suitable for daily bath, and the Cetaphil Moisturizing Cream for soft and smooth skin. Cetaphil product lines are available in all Mercury Drug outlets and other leading drugstores nationwide, and top supermarkets in Metro Manila.

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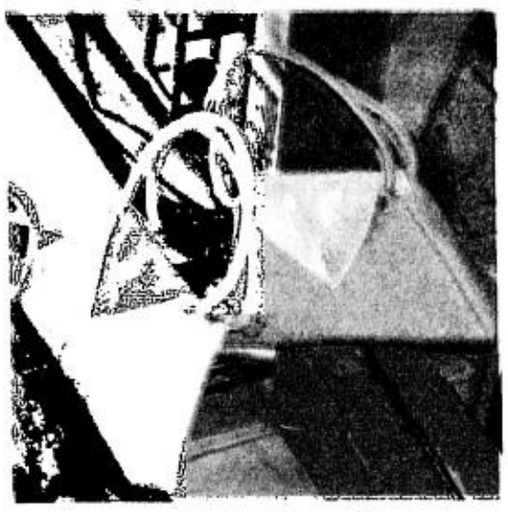
AUDREY Tan goes to great lengths to look fabulous in a fuchsia and gold sari top and Thai silk serpentina skirt.

DÉJÀ vu bag and the stylish *supot*



PYRAMID bags in silver blue and fire

Michele Sison's utopian look

(From page D1)

With a little imagination, Sison's pants can be converted from the traditional waist-length to the hipster.

The young ones tend to nix the designers who made their mother's wedding gowns in favor of Sison. When designing gowns, Sison is inspired by her clients. Instead of a full gown, she suggests separates that can be worn after the ball. These separates are rich in texture and patterns, sometimes spruced up with embroidery and other motifs. She challenges the common notion that people can remember a printed outfit. It's just a matter of using different accessories.

Sison got noticed when she did a wedding for a neighbor. It turned out to be a good advertisement since she got another client. One day Lia Bernardo commissioned the designer to make a collection for a bridal magazine, including the cover.

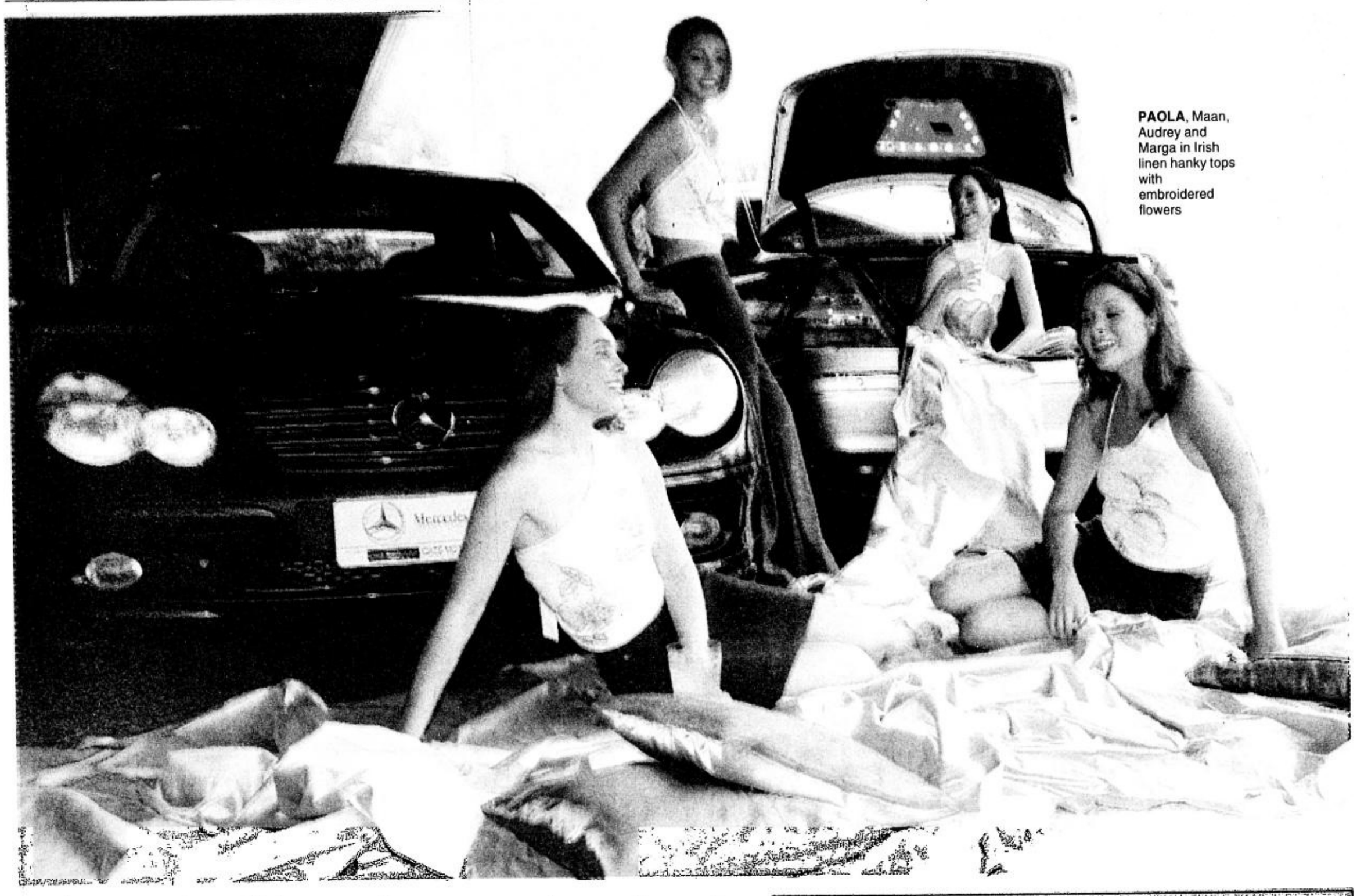
MICHELE/ p.D7

MARGARITA Padilla gets stitched in a silk dupioni skirt with pin tucks and a chiffon skirt.

PAOLA Zobel wears a nude-colored bustier and skirt, made of dope-dyed chiffon, and a sari overskirt.

Her designs reflect current moods and, worn by the emerging faces in society columns, should point to the tenor of the future

MAAN Gonzalez is pressed for time in a matte gold silk dupioni gown.



PAOLA, Maan, Audrey and Marga in Irish linen hanky tops with embroidered flowers

Michele Sison's utopian look

HOLOGRAM-STRAPPED *bakya* and buttons, links and studs in narra, glass, crystals and silver

(From page D6)

The pictorial was set against an exotic location in Baguio with Wig Tysmans as the photographer. It opened doors for her. She joined the Asean Design Show and Fashion Watch.

Current moods

After studying accessories design in London, Sison came out with fabric bags, accessories and clunky clogs, which are sold at Al Estilo and Firma. Her designs reflect current moods in fashion such as the '80s clutch bag and touches of Orientalia, boosted by the popularity of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Her bags fuse Eastern elements such as bamboo and chopsticks with color-blocked Mondrian and Pop art.

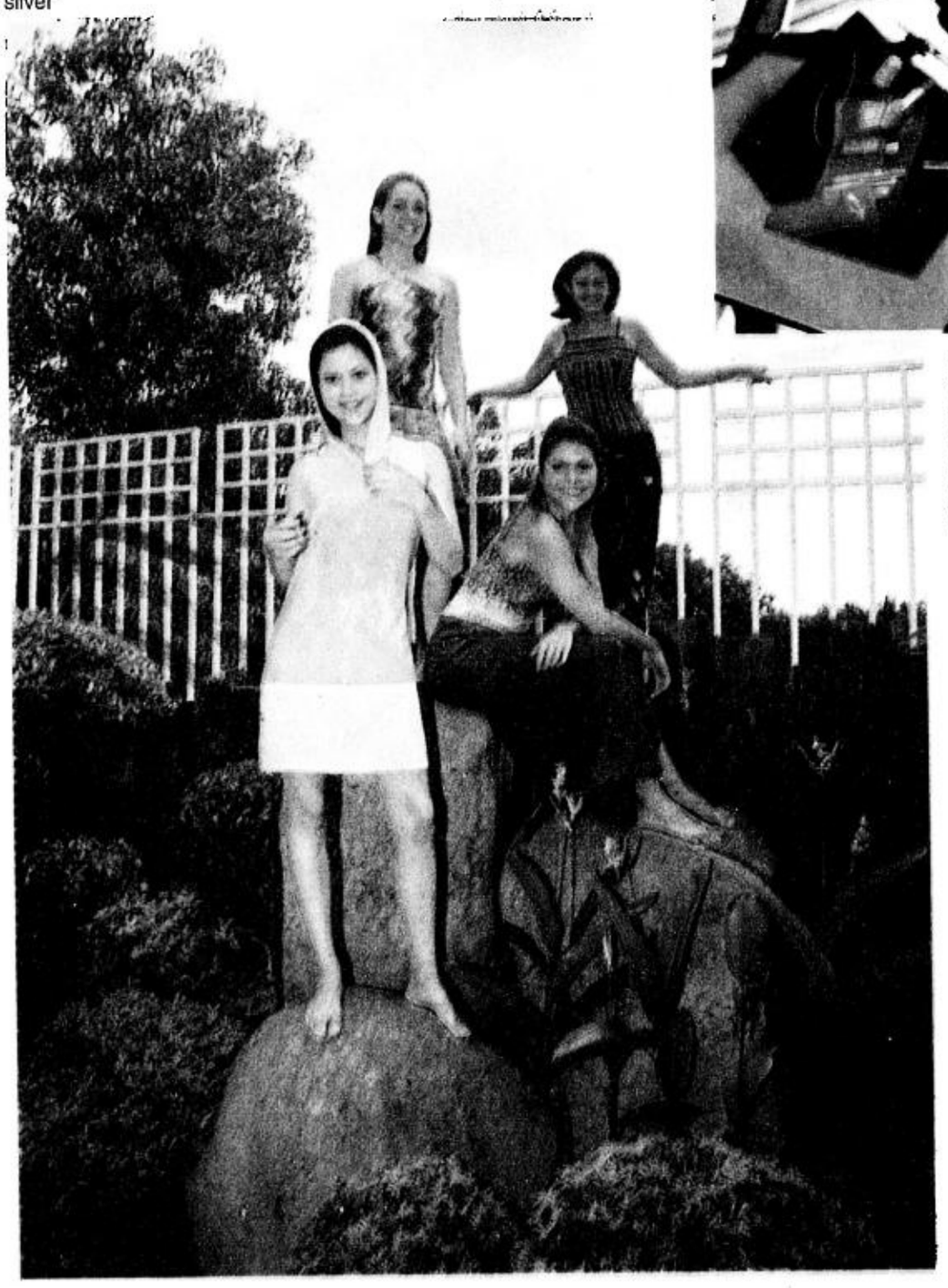
Sison also considered the lifestyle of the working woman who goes from work to cocktail. She makes little purses that can be pulled out of a big bag.

Sison looks to her roots for design elements. She uses local materials such as narra and silver for her studs and links. "I love the texture of wood. You don't need to use precious stones," she says.

Her versions of the mini *bayong* and the *supot* or doggy bag can contain the woman's mobile office and still look chic at night.

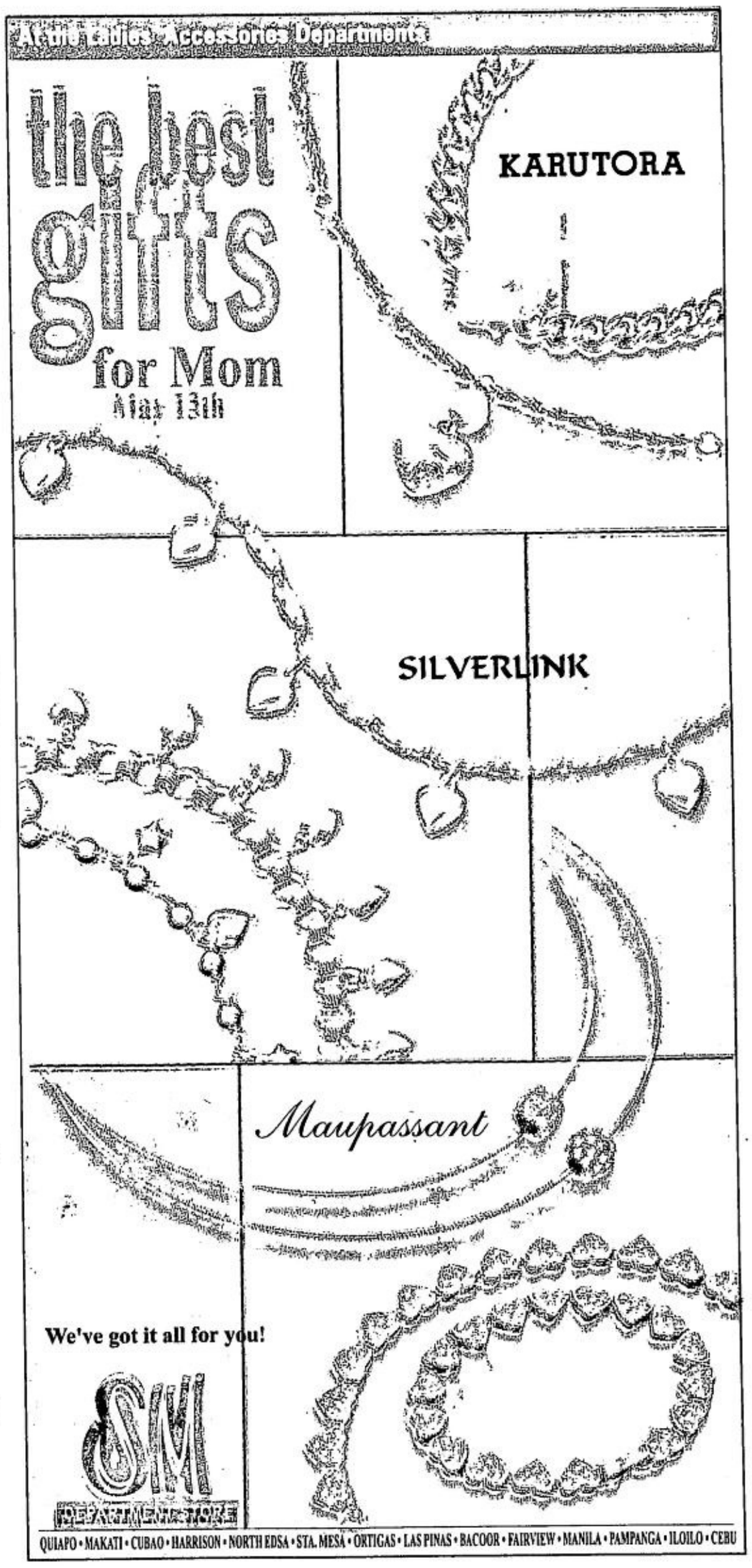
Her wooden clogs, take-offs of the *bakya*, use PVC and her platforms carry scroll designs.

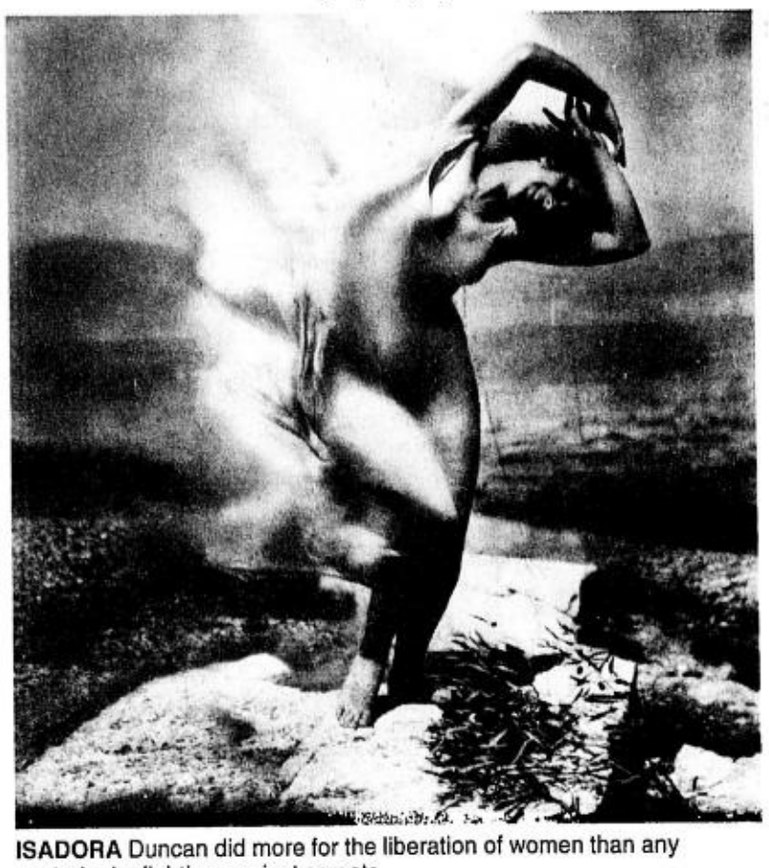
EMBROIDERED schmig mats for cigarette sticks, chopsticks, incense, makeup brushes and lipliners, and a red and white jacquard chopstick purse



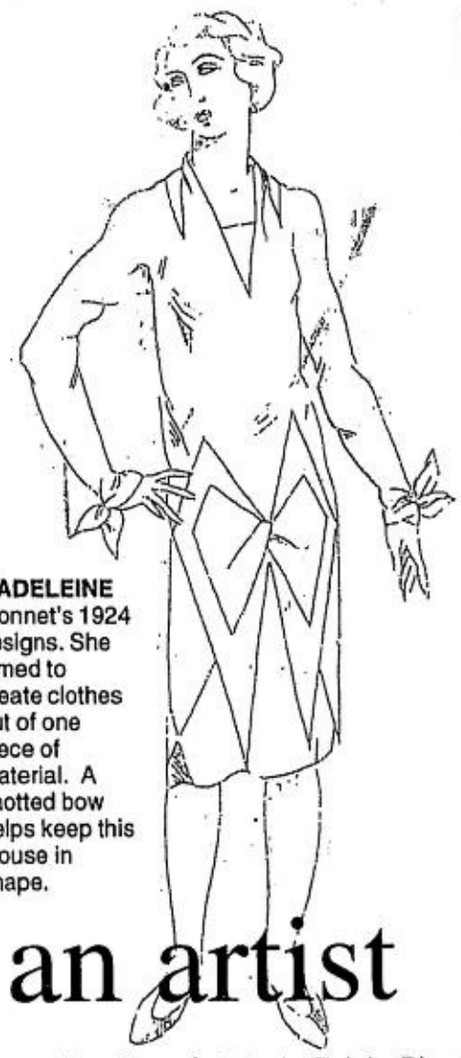
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY HENRY CALAYAG OF BCBG SALON
MERCEDES BENZES FROM CATS MOTORS INC.
ACCESSORIES FROM ESTILO, ROCKWELL LIFESTYLE CENTER, TEL. 729-1516

LET THE SUN SHINE IN. Paola wears a monochromatic blue georgette halter dress. Maan wears a blue and gray-striped dress. Audrey is in a duotone yellow georgette hooded dress and Marga wears a crazy scroll-design dress with epaulet belt loops.





ISADORA Duncan did more for the liberation of women than any couturier by fighting against corsets.



MADELEINE Vionnet's 1924 designs. She aimed to create clothes out of one piece of material. A knotted bow helps keep this blouse in shape.

THIS flapper dress would have been worn as a slip a few years earlier. Accessories such as the fabric flower, string of pearls and bracelets

JACQUES Fath introduced the bell-shaped coat.

The couturier as an artist

Fashion: The Century of the Designer
By Charlotte Seeling
Konemann, 650 pages

REVIEW

History affects our manner of dressing and aesthetics

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

ACCORDING to author Charlotte Seeling, "Fashion is a 20th-century phenomenon." Before the 20th century, the clothes people wore were determined by their social class, race or nationality. It was Charles Frederick Worth, ironically an Englishman, who was actually the first couturier, as we know it today. He was the first one who thought of affixing his signature on his "creations," something not done at that time. This gave birth to French haute couture and paved the way for Paris to become the center of fashion.

In a very comprehensive, almost encyclopedic book, "Fashion: The Century of the Designer" takes its readers on a photographic journey of 20th-century style. Although it is a coffee-table book, the wealth of information it offers more than scratches the surface. This is a heavy book—both in weight and content. The most important couturiers of the last 100 years, from Vionnet to Balmain, Christian Dior to Yves Saint Laurent, Lagerfeld to Versace, are covered, not just their contributions and innovations but other interesting details as well. For instance, the rivalry between Chanel and Schiaparelli—how they both surrounded themselves with the greatest artists of their time and maintained the same circle of friends and yet hated each other even if their designs were as different as night and day. Chanel, who refused to acknowledge her Italian counterpart, focused on simple, practical designs in contrast to Schiaparelli's whimsical creations.

The great influence that designers gained as the century progressed is also evident. When Balenciaga closed the doors of his house because he was disappointed by the trends in fashion, one of his customers withdrew to her bed and cried for three days. The close relationships couturiers had with famous clients were vital to their popularity. The world's fascination with Wallis Simpson made her Mainbocher's most important client. In fact, it seems that she was the model for most of his designs. They were structured to suit women with the duchess' physique. Later on as movies became a popular form of entertainment, designers saw the great influence stars of the silver screen had on the general public. Audrey Hepburn's relationship with Givenchy single-handedly brought him to the fore. Even the late Princess Diana and Jackie Kennedy had favorite designers whose creations they immortalized.

The book does not just focus on clothing but makeup as well. Each chapter defines the look of the decade, chronicling everything from the birth of Max Factor's cake foundation to the changing colors of lipstick. The chapters all fittingly end with female icons that best exemplify the decade.

There is so much information about fashion, and everything related, in Seeling's book. Milestones like the introduction of the little black dress, women wearing pants, the bobbed hairdo, and many others are discussed. The undeniable part that world history and politics had in the evolution of fashion is also tied in. For example, the war made fabrics scarce and this changed the silhouette, skirts therefore became fitted. Also the use of fabrics like silk, which were used to make parachutes, gave way to their less opulent counterparts. When women started working for the war effort, denim jeans inadvertently found their way into mainstream fashion—a role it continues to enjoy today.

Even if you are not a fashionista, "Fashion: The Century of the Designer" has much to offer. From a sociological perspective, it studies how history affects the way we dress and our aesthetics. It also illustrates how many designers were years ahead of their time and how many present-day designers borrow ideas from the pioneers. Most of all, the designer as a true artist, is heralded, accompanied by countless photographs to illustrate their undeniable talent.

BIRTH OF THE NEW LOOK. The narrow shoulders, nipped waist, rounded hips and the flared skirt created the hour-glass figure.

MOD '60S. Graphic black-and-white mini

ANNA Bayle models an Issey Miyake outfit which accents the movement of the fabric instead of revealing the body.

Know when your hair needs help

Your hair may look and feel okay, but if you frequently perm, color, straighten, blow dry, or expose it to the sun or chlorinated water — most likely, your hair needs treatment. You probably think it's just a bad hair day if you have dandruff, split ends, brittle hair, an oily or dry scalp, or falling hair — and that changing shampoos or going to the parlor will restore your hair's healthy state. The fact is, the condition of your hair today is the product of all the things you've done which could affect its future condition and may eventually lead to premature baldness.

Other indications that your hair needs treatment are: your daily hair loss is noticeably plentiful; you notice that your falling hair is shorter and much finer than normal; your parents, grandparents or blood relations are bald; you have fine, brittle or altered hair or you've entered the critical ages of 20, 30, 40, 50 (for men) or if you are over 35 (for women). Inadequate nutrition, stress, prolonged illness, post-operative effects, slimmimg diets, pregnancy and the taking of prescribed drugs can also contribute to the deterioration of your hair.

Your shampoo and conditioner are just not enough to fix the damage and stop the excessive hair-fall. And, given the many products in the market, it is difficult to pick out the right hair care treatment that can take action on your hair before you lose it all.

Foltène is a revolutionary hair care treatment that helps prolong hair's life cycle. It contains Trichosaccharide, a natural ingredient that stimulates the circulation of blood nutrients into the hair follicles. By normalizing the hair's condition, Foltène addresses dandruff, split ends, dry or oily hair, as well as fine or brittle hair.

Foltène is so easy to apply. After shampooing, towel dry hair then apply Foltène directly to scalp. Do not rinse it off and do not shampoo again for at least six hours to ensure the essential contact time. Use only one vial at a time. For those with excessive falling or thinning hair, undergo the attack and maintenance phase where you apply one vial every other day for 40 days (20 vials). While in the maintenance phase, use two vials per week for two to three months. For those suffering from dandruff, dry hair, split ends and oily or dry scalp, use two vials per week for three months to ensure healthier scalp. Resume the attack or maintenance cycle as needed to maintain hair and scalp condition.

After a few applications of Foltène, the external appearance of your hair improves, giving you the qualities you require most — shine, softness, manageability, volume, and more importantly, healthier hair without fear of premature hair loss.

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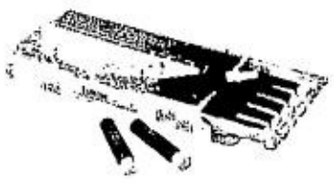

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

The party after the storm

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Our two-cents-worth guide to voters—remember, behind every rotten politician is a shopaholic wife, girlfriend, mistress (or all of these)

AS the political riot shifted to the legal arena, us ordinary and sane people could only resume our "nonrebellion" lifestyle.

On May 2, the day after a tumultuous Labor Day which left our batteries all but drained, it became obvious that people just needed a break. The bridal fashion show at Shangri-La Makati, the first post-Malacañang attack social event, was packed, drawing a crowd that was a predictably happy mix of Edsa 2, Mares, apoliticals, political survivors and casualties, fashionistas, diplomats, businessmen and, of course, young and past-young socialites.

It was the launch of Metro's semi-annual bridal magazine Veil and while we organizers didn't expect a lean attendance, we were nonetheless pleasantly surprised by the huge turnout. Even as we watched with fear the attack on Malacañang the previous day, we never thought of aborting the launch not only because we didn't have a choice, but also because we knew that after such a cliff-hanger, people would need to exhale. So barring a running battle on Makati's streets, we knew we'd push through with the event. And our optimism was well founded.

In the first place, this show was the first time in years that the country's top designers—competitors all—were parading their bridal gowns under one roof.

In the second place, these designers have a devoted following who'd be eager to see the battle of creativity. And in the third place, the Pinoy psyche is meant to survive against all odds, and such survival instinct always finds its expression in either humor or creativity. It was the latter in the case of the Metro Veil show.

True enough, the designers made brand-new wedding gowns just for the show—Pepito Albert, Auggie Cordero, Rhett Eala, Ben Farrales, Noli Hans, Pitoy Moreno, Rajo Laurel, Loretto, Michele Sison, Joe Salazar, Inno Sotto.

Pepito went soft and supple; Auggie digressed from his colored bridal gowns to go classic white; Rhett's were cool pastels; Loretto's was ultra-feminine; Ben's was dramatic, Michele's was hip and deconstructed; Pitoy's was demurely Filipino; Rajo's was a sumptuous ballgown; Noli's was intricate in its cut-out embroidery rarely seen these days; Joe's was richly romantic with those floral prints in silk organza; Inno pulled yet another surprise when he stuck to flowers and butterflies.

What made me proud was how different the designers' works from each other were—the range of individuality and craftsmanship was so impressive that it would have made an informative show for students of design. After the tumult of the previous days, we felt good to see something beautiful.

But to be honest, I was more concerned with the direction than the gowns—fashion reviews could take care of the critique, and I wasn't working as a fashion reviewer that night. For once, the shoe was on the other foot—I, the Bride's Maids & Co. and Shangri-La Makati's Joy Wassmer and Marketing boss Rey Villar were the organizers. We were more concerned that the show flowed like a breeze (no boring gaps), and that the gowns—and more important, the designers—didn't clash. Thanks to Ariel Lozada's expert and politically correct direction, it was a clash-less evening, even in the dressing room.

On hand to applaud the designers were the People-We-Love-to-Watch set.

Conchitina Bernardo, Marilou Mabilangan Haley, Dr. Greg Alvior, Dr. Tony Protacio, Georgina Padilla, Elena Fernando were there for their good friend Pitoy; Conchitina, of course,

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

also for her only daughter Lia who, despite her exciting job at J&J, remains one of the movers behind Bride's Maids.

For Ben, there were Letty Syquia, Helen Ong, Bambi Harper, Marilou Prieto, Mely and Louie Ablaza. Sally Navarro and friends came for Inno.

Inno's and Pepito's friend Margarita Fores tried to catch up. Turning out for Auggie Cordero were Aurora Silayan Go with friend Popsie Mendez, Mayen Carmona who brought Minda Feliciano (now married to Lord Norman Londsdale), Becky Garcia, Celia Cuasay and the French Consul Pierre Coquillat who had just flown in from Paris the day before.

Rajo Laurel had Yolly Aysson and Diwa Gatchalian, the better half of William. ABC 5's Eddie Roces was there with his family to see daughter Isabel model for Joe. Also around were Fortune Ledesma, Fe Agoncillo Reyes, designers Tonichi Nocum, Frederick Peralta.

Frederick told us the good news that he was the only Filipino designer whose works are included in a fashion book done by Dina Hadjie to be launched in Paris next month. The Unesco-aided project has only 16 designers from the world over.

Anton Barretto, Leah Puyat, LV's Gigi Mabanta were also around. And so was Cher Calvin who recounted to us the night she got trapped in

THE PARTY/ p.E3

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Thank you Mommy... you touch my world with love.
Happy Mother's Day from Johnson's baby

Home care center for drug addicts

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I realize that there are many mothers bothered about their drug addict sons, and it was good to read your answer to one who needed help. My son has also recovered, and I would like to tell you about this Center right here in Metro Manila.

LAMBS was formed three years ago by a couple, nurses by profession, Mr. and Ms Eric Cabali, members of Missionary Couples of Mary for Christ. They treat those with psychotic illness as well as those who need drug detoxification. This home care center has six psychiatrists and four nurses, and right now they are treating 22 males and three females. The address is 159 Wilson St. corner Mariano Marcos, San Juan, tel. 725-3665 or (0919) 352-1434.

A HAPPY MOTHER

Thank you for your information. I have received letters thanking me for mentioning some centers. With what happened recently on Mendiola, we really need to know where drug detoxification can be done. If readers know of other places, I will be happy to mention them here.

Erratum: The correct tel. no. of Bahay Bagong Buhay is 711-0073 or (0917) 898-1468. They refer women to the Ospital ng Maynila.

This time, just B.O.

I READ "A housewife shares her remedies for B.O." (PDI Lifestyle, 04/08/01) and what caught my interest was Survivor A, who victoriously eliminated her B.O. problems for good. Will you be kind enough to give me her home address or e-mail, and her name, so I may ask her some questions, like should I buy blue Betadine cleanser or the green one, which Dry Idea deodorant should I buy, and how long did the operation take, etc.

Please help. I want to free myself from the mesh of B.O. embarrassment.

STENCH

I hope Survivor A will read your request and send me her true name and address, which I will e-mail to you if she is willing. You requested me not to publish your letter; if only you didn't, you would get her answer sooner, and maybe even hear from others willing to help. Below is another timely letter you might be interested in, as well as dozens of other readers. Especially now that it is summer, it is also sweating time.

Another answer to B.O.

SOMETIME ago I read the letter of Dying to be Helped about her body odor.

As a distributor of the Philippines' No. 1 natural health product, I would like to help her solve her problem with the use of our wonder product, with full money-back guarantee. This is also an opportunity for her and your other readers to earn extra income using and sharing the product.

For more information, I can be contacted at 732-93-23, (0919) 274-5192 or e-mail caloybm@edsamail.com.ph. Thank you.

CARLOS MANALASTAS

On going to the US

WE call you "Encyclopedia" among my friends, and we were even grateful to read your answer about where to sell old coins. My question is not really a problem, but my passport has expired with my US visa still good for another year. After I renew my passport, do I have to apply for another US visa? My cousin is getting married this September and I will be her bridesmaid. Do I have to apply for that courier system? Thank you for your answer.

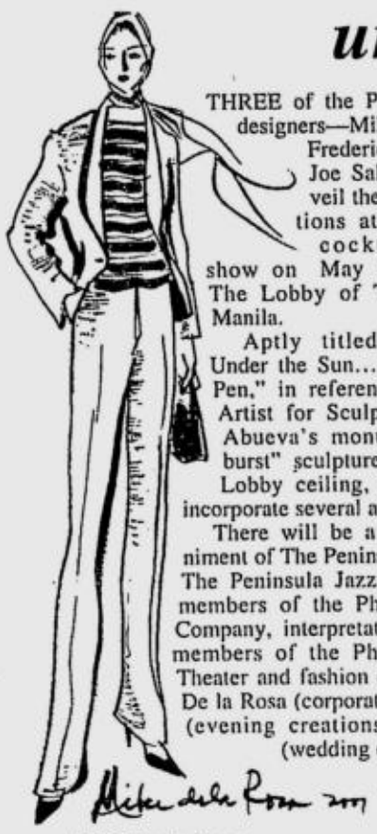
ROSE

Just clip your old passport to the new one.

Dear readers, if you have other questions, please do not write to this column. For information on going to the United States, please dial 1909-101-000. The telephones you use should either be PLDT, Smart or Piltel.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

The Pen showcases everything under the sun



MIKE Dela Rosa

THREE of the Philippines' top designers—Mike de la Rosa, Frederick Peralta and Joe Salazar—will unveil their latest collections at an exclusive cocktail-musical show on May 17, 6 p.m., at The Lobby of The Peninsula Manila.

Aptly titled "Everything Under the Sun... Events at The Pen," in reference to National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva's monumental "Sunburst" sculpture adorning The Lobby ceiling, the event will incorporate several arts.

There will be a live accompaniment of The Peninsula Strings and The Peninsula Jazz Ensemble and members of the Philippine Opera Company, interpretative dancing by members of the Philippine Ballet Theater and fashion ensembles from De la Rosa (corporate wear), Peralta (evening creations) and Salazar (wedding entourage).

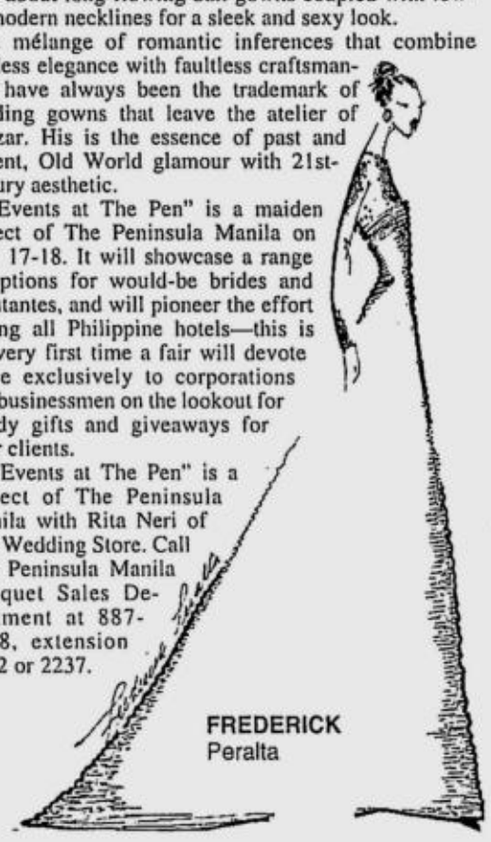
Corporate wear designed by De la Rosa can mainly be described as modern, urban and chic. Characterized by knee-length skirts and sleek-fitted slacks, his corporate line comes mostly in browns, beige, rust and similar earth tones for the classy corporate look.

The evening creations designed by Peralta can best be described as sheer elegance. Characterized by long flowing skirts, intricately designed tops and body-hugging soft silks, the eveningwear line boasts of pure classic style. Largely dominated by black, this collection is all about long-flowing ball gowns coupled with low-cut modern necklines for a sleek and sexy look.

A mélange of romantic inferences that combine timeless elegance with faultless craftsmanship have always been the trademark of wedding gowns that leave the atelier of Salazar. His is the essence of past and present, Old World glamour with 21st-century aesthetic.

"Events at The Pen" is a maiden project of The Peninsula Manila on May 17-18. It will showcase a range of options for would-be brides and debutantes, and will pioneer the effort among all Philippine hotels—this is the very first time a fair will devote space exclusively to corporations and businessmen on the lookout for trendy gifts and giveaways for their clients.

"Events at The Pen" is a project of The Peninsula Manila with Rita Neri of The Wedding Store. Call The Peninsula Manila Banquet Sales Department at 887-2888, extension 2232 or 2237.



FREDERICK Peralta

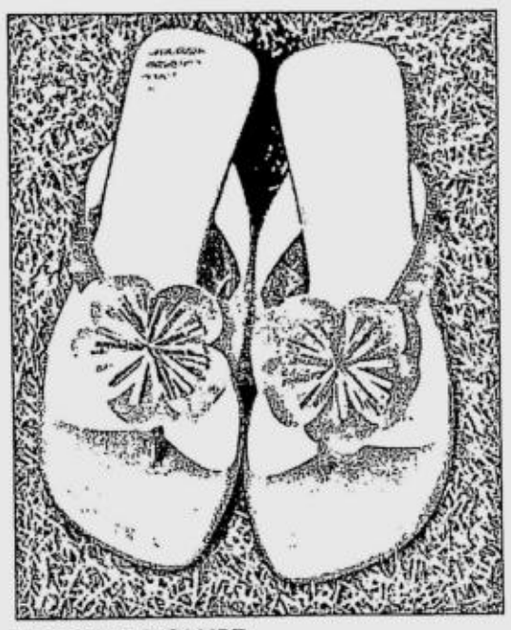
Treat yourself to a day of wellness

SITUATED between Dasmariñas Village and Ecology Village, Revive Salon offers full services that includes hair styling and treatment, massage, facial treatment and other beauty regimens. It is located at 2/L Lising Building, Pasong Tamo Extension.

Fans swear by the massage, facial and hair experience done by seasoned therapists. The salon recruits experienced senior operators. Even the hair colorist was a former trainer of the House of L'Oréal. The "Day of Wellness Package" includes a full body massage, facial, manicure, pedicure and scalp treatment. The package costs only P1,500.

Aside from the "Day of Wellness Package," salon specials include warm wax manicure and pedicure, foot spa, bentosa massage, nail sculpture, corrective coloring and highlighting. The salon offers express services for executives on the run. Executive Express Conditioning is a one-minute conditioning treatment that includes shampoo and blow dry. This service is being offered from 8-9 a.m. and 12 nn and 1 p.m. For stress-breaking massage that is not too long, the salon offers grasshopper chair massage, which only costs P200 for 30 minutes.

For the bride-to-be, the salon can come up with a bridal package that will make the wedding preparation more relaxing and enjoyable. Gift certificates are also available. For students, simply present your ID and get 10 percent off on all services. Call 893-2706/3124 for reservations.

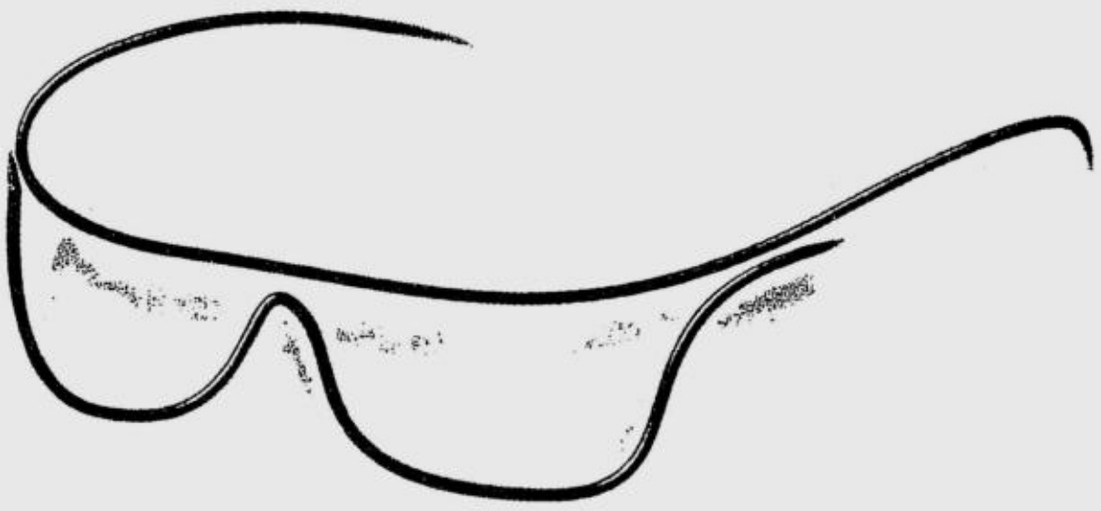


FLOWER POWER

More and more women are baring their feet because of the hot, humid weather. And Celine has beautifully designed its latest "flower power" slip-ons, slides and flatties in tune with the summer season. They're also a perfect gift idea for Mother's Day. Choose your favorite color, too. The new flower power from Celine shoes are available at all SM branches, Ayala Malls, Robinsons malls, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and SM Pampanga.

FOR THE DARING WOMAN

For May, avail the latest offer of Nino Cerruti, the Cerruti Image woman gift set (75 ml eau de toilette spray and handbag) for P3,600. The Cerruti Image fragrances are distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and are available in all department stores nationwide.



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Have you, at one time or another been called one of these cute but hurtful taunts? Leave it to the Filipino to come up with funny jeers. But if you examine it a little closer, these nicknames, though often said in jest are anything but funny. The truth is losing one's hair is never funny.

The painful fact is, if you're age 25 up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible stage of baldness. In fact due to the prevalence of baldness, many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately most of them just don't work. They can also cause harmful side effects.

Good thing there are scientifically-tested and highly-effective hair growth formula available today. One of these is Minoxidil Regroe. Regroe is a result of years of study in the U.S. and is one of the few medications that has proven its efficacy. Eighty percent of users have grown their hair back in 6 months. While results vary from case to case- some start to grow their hair back as early as two months-most of the users are satisfied with the product. At the first month of use, falling hair stops. At two months, new hair starts to grow. At 6 months, all lost hair would have been recovered. That is how effective Regroe is.

Arabohok? AGA nalagas? Don't be a joke forever. You can do something about your hair loss. Act now before it's too late-- call the Regroe Hotline.

RETURN COUPON

For more information on effective hair growth, send this coupon to VBP Group of Companies, 5/F Champaca Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City

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Glitters in an otherwise drab night

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

AND the winner for best-dressed actress is... Cherie Gil. It was an easy victory, but a well-deserved one nonetheless.

With virtually every female star either out on the campaign trail or cowering in fear after the failed power grab, Cherie and Zsa Zsa Padilla were among the few left to bask in the limelight as the long, drawn-out awards season ended recently.

Both stars graced the Film Academy Awards in gowns that flattered their figures and draped their smooth shoulders. As if her gown's front slit wasn't enough, Cherie sprinkled her skin with hints of glitter reminiscent of the 1980s.

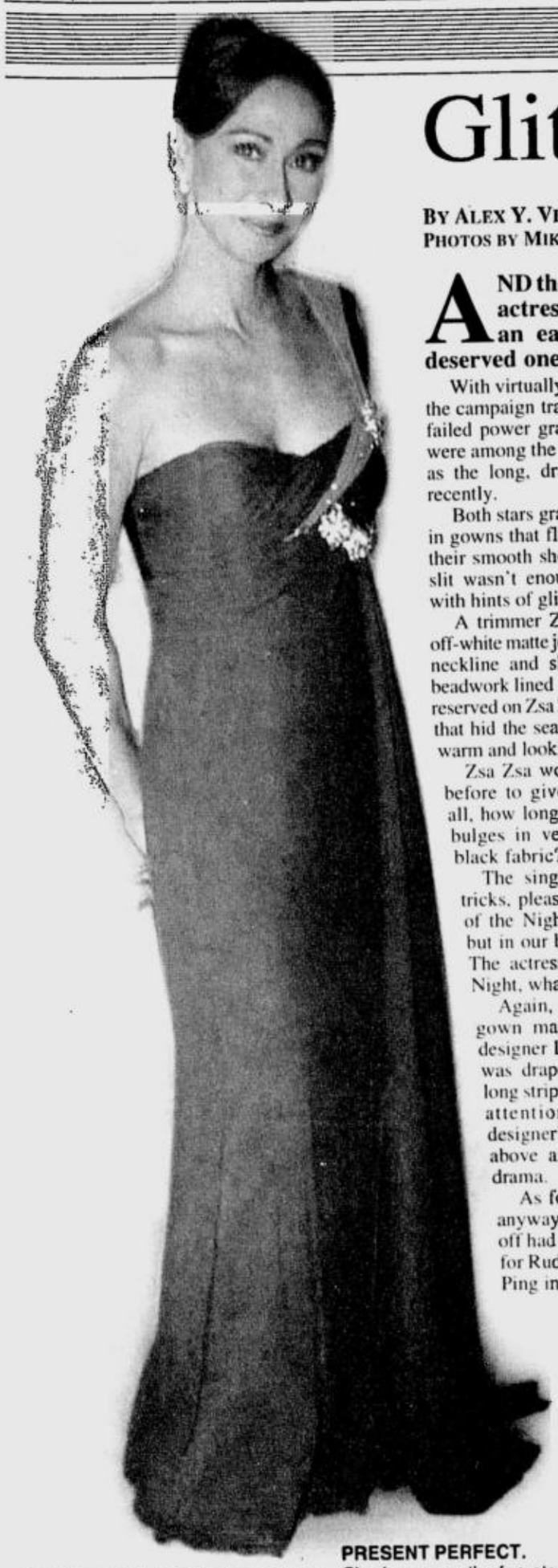
A trimmer Zsa Zsa glided in Rajo Laurel's off-white matte jersey creation with an asymmetric neckline and skirt cut on the bias. Diagonal beadwork lined the gown, but the real drama was reserved on Zsa Zsa's back—beaded illusion tulle that hid the seams and kept the Dolphy's angel warm and looking decent all night.

Zsa Zsa worked out and dieted like never before to give justice to the creation. After all, how long can one hide those bumps and bulges in vertical beadwork and layers of black fabric?

The singer-actress is tired of all those tricks, please. For her efforts, she won Star of the Night. Okay, Zsa Zsa looked good, but in our book, Cherie looked even better. The actress had to settle for Face of the Night, whatever that means.

Again, she stood out in a peacock blue gown made of silk chiffon by favorite designer Inno Sotto. The strapless number was draped along the bust line, while a long strip of willowy fabric in fuchsia drew attention to her left shoulder. The designer's trademark brooch was pinned above and below the bustier for added drama.

As for the others (a handful of them, anyway), they would have been better off had they stayed at home, campaigned for Rudy or Phillip, or joined Gringo and Ping in the mountains.



PRESENT PERFECT. Cherie, among the few stars who graced the event, wins best-dressed actress in this silk chiffon number in peacock blue.

TONE ON TONE. Rustom Padilla reclaims dimming star presence in this black-and-white suit.

DECENT FOR NOW. Halina Perez shuns fishnets, see-throughs and bra caps in favor of this beaded halter with a column skirt made of organza. Either the measurements were wrong or she needs to visit Dr. Vicky Belo.

GOING NATIVE. Gary V. in a superbly structured barong Tagalog

BEHIND THE SCENE. A slimmer Judy Ann Santos in this velvet number with floral details on the back. The bottle green fabric seems too thick and dark for summer.

WHITE LADY. Sultry songstress Zsa Zsa Padilla has had enough of black. She reveals her new figure in this body-hugging gown with an asymmetrical neckline.

HOPELESS. Jolina Magdangal continues to defy reason with a poorly fitted beaded bib and leatherette pants in shades of old rose.

Some minor fashion hits relieved the lackluster and poorly attended Film Academy Awards Night

The party after the storm

(From page E1)

the Edsa overpass, during the pro-Erap rally, and a bunch of men rocked her car.

Driving alone, she had the presence of mind to back up fast and drive away, but then another jeepload of men tried to cut her off. She continued speeding on, and got back her wits only when she arrived home.

Lia, Marichelle Ligon Pio de Roda, Rachel Martelino Climent, Leah Sanchez of Bride's Maids must have felt good about the show and the crowd. I felt not only good, but light. For the first time in the tumultuous weeks I thought and felt lifestyle.

Angels

Speaking of feeling good, my e-mail continues to fill with inquiries about Nonoy Ozaeta, the angel counselor at Chacra. You can call Chacra (434-5381, 426-5368) for appointments and a slot in the workshop. Ours is really a country in need of angels.

People write in, too, to ask about the forthcoming visit of "Conversations with God" author Neale Donald Walsch. Jim Paredes and company are holding a "Conversations with Neale Donald Walsch" sessions on June 23 for which tickets are sold. You can call 426-5375, 426-3208. I was surprised to see that there are many discussion sessions on this bestseller series going on around town.

No mental hospital

Want to know the most popular gig in town now? Stand-up comic and mimic Jon Santos has never been so busy as now doing the rounds of corporate parties. The most in demand act from him—Miriam Santiago. However, he has yet to be invited to perform at National Mental Hospital.

I want to add my two-cents-worth on choosing whom to vote for these elections. Mine is a lifestyle take—keep this in mind, behind every rotten politician is a shopaholic woman (wife, girlfriend, mistress—or all of these in many cases). Before you list down your choice, ask yourself—can the country still afford to pay for the jewelry, designer clothes, designer bags and shoes, liposuction, face-lift of this politician's wife, girlfriend or mistress (or again, all of these)? If your answer is no, don't vote for that candidate.

Oh, the above questionnaire also holds true for boyfriends and boy toys.

Condolences

We condole with Pitoy Moreno who lost a sister this week. Milagros Moreno Cruz was 65. Also with Freddie Garcia and his wife Gloria. Freddie's mother Lourdes died last week. She was 94.

The author's e-mail is tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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SCHEDULE OF QUESTIONS
You will receive four (4) multiple-choice questions daily. Each question will be sent at around 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

TO ANSWER QUIZ
Key in **QUIZ <question number> <answer>** and send to **288**. Example: **QUIZ 1 C**. Send your reply back to **288** within the time limit. You will be informed immediately if your answer is correct or incorrect. If your answer is incorrect, you will no longer receive questions for that day.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES
To qualify for the daily raffle you must submit correct answers to all four questions within the specified time. Perfect score for the day is considered 1 raffle entry for the daily and monthly raffle. The more number of days you get a perfect score, the more chances of winning ₱ 1,000,000.00.

TO QUIT
If you no longer wish to participate key in **QUIZ QUIT** and send to **288**. Participants who quit but previously earned a raffle entry will still be entitled to the grand raffle draw for that month.

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STEP 1: FOUNDATION
Smooth on slightly damp sponge on Avon Cake Foundation and apply on the face using downward, sideward, short fast strokes. Remember, the secret lies in finding the right shade, so find a shade that matches your neck's skin tone to avoid looking mask-like and unnatural.

STEP 2: PRESSED POWDER
To help makeup wear longer, apply Avon Color Oil-Control Pressed or Loose Powder with Vitamin C. Face Powder reduces shine and the Vitamin C content helps lighten age spots and prevent premature aging.

STEP 3: EYE SHADOW
Now it's time to play up your eyes. Avon Color Silk Finish Eye Shadow Quad features four fabulous shades to mix and match. Remember that application can vary. For basic makeup, you can use light color for base, medium color to contour and dark color to accent. Apply lightest shade under the brow onto the lid. Then sweep medium shade from lash line up to the lid fold. To accent, apply dark color from the outer edge of the lid to the crease in V-shaped stroke.

Avon catches up with the woman on the go, hard-pressed to fix herself up in between meetings:

STEP 4: MASCARA
To give more definition, apply Avon Color Incredible Length Mascara by holding mascara wand horizontally on the upper lashes. Then hold the wand vertically and lightly brush the tip of the lower lashes. Avon Color also has Voluptuous Full-Figured Mascara for thicker lashes and Wash-Off Waterproof Mascara. Tip: Curl lashes prior to application to make the eyes look brighter.

STEP 5: EYEBROW
Using Avon Color Eye and Brow Makeup, fill in sparse area with light feathery strokes. You may also use Avon Color Luxury Eyebrow Pencil. Remember, the ideal eyebrow should start just above the inner corner of the eye and extend slightly past the outer corner. The arch of the eyebrow should be slightly past the area above the outer side of your pupil.

STEP 6: BLUSH
To achieve a natural look, choose shade of blush that is the exact shade of your face when you are flushed or exercising. To apply, sweep Avon Color Natural Radiance Powder Blush Duo over the apple of your cheeks all the way up to the hairline. Smile as you apply so you'll know the exact spot to put the blush on. Blend well to avoid a clownish look. Use lighter shade of Avon Color Natural Radiance Powder Blush Duo for highlighting and the darker shade to contour cheekbones. Tip: Apply blush lightly on the bridge of the nose, chin and forehead for an all-over rosy glow.

STEP 7: LIPSTICK
Sweep Avert Color Ultra Color Rich Renewable Lipstick over your lips. Simply follow your natural lip contour. To create a more flattering lip color, you may use a lip brush. If you desire to redefine the shape of your lips, use Avon Color Luxury Lip Lining Pencil to outline your lips before filling in with lipstick.

Fast makeup tips for the busy woman

By Harriet Ann Dy

IN THIS fast-moving era, who has the time to spend precious moments putting on makeup and preening in front of the mirror? Still, looking good is very much a priority then—when women had the luxury of time—as it is now, when five-to-10-minute makeup moments have become the norm.

FIONA Lucas

In these makeup stories, Lala Flores, Avon's makeup consultant and, yes, a woman on the go herself, gives tips on how to look fabulous on the fly.

Fiona Lucas

For Fiona Lucas, 25, working in the fashion business means that she has to look good most of the time. As fashion assistant for Metro magazine, a typical day usually means accompanying her editor to press conferences and cocktails, as well as sourcing for merchandise that can be featured in the magazine. "I'm out most of the time so we really have to look nice and presentable," she says.

On this makeup session, Lala chose to play up Fiona's full lips and almond-shaped eyes ("She can really play with colors with it," says Lala). "I contoured her full cheeks with a bit of contouring on the side to give her diamond-shaped cheeks," she said.

Fiona's yellow skin tone—somewhere between mestiza fair and *morena*—is the perfect shade to play with colors from Avon's new mauve, brown, coral and pink collections.

1. For foundation, Lala used Avon Cake Foundation in Subtle Tan. She suggests using a lighter base to conceal dark under-eye circles. Lala also used Avon's Cake Foundation in Naiad Mint to give Fiona's skin a flawless look and to conceal broken blood vessels. She also employed a darker base for contouring. Avon Color Oil-Control Pressed Powder with Vitamin C in Natural was used to make foundation last longer.

2. She used Avon Color Silk Finish Eye Shadow Quad in Silvery Lilac as base and Orchid Pink for contouring in inverted V fashion. She blended both shades outward to bring out Fiona's eyes. Lala finished the look with Avon Color Incredible Lengths Black Mascara and Avon Color Eye and Brow Makeup in Natural Brown for a softer look.

3. For the cheeks, she used Avon Color Natural Radiance Powder Blush Duo in Coral Reef on the apple of the cheeks, and Rose Dawn on the lower portion to lessen the fullness. Her lips were a blend of Avon Color Ultra Color Rich Renewable in Chutney. She finished the look with Avon Oil Control Pressed Powder with Vitamin C in Natural.

This can be done in 10 minutes, less if you have an organized makeup kit. Lala advises to let makeup sit for 30 minutes to achieve a natural effect. "If your skin is properly prepped, makeup will stay for two to three hours without touchups."

Uchie Aliwalas

At 39, Uchie definitely looks years younger than her biological age. She has soft, clear skin and an proportionate face that needs minimal makeup.

She also has a busy job: she's a distribution analyst for Avon Cosmetics. A growing family doesn't leave her much for personal time.

"*Sa kotse na ako nagme*-makeup," she says.

For this makeover, Lala opted to play up her facial features with a dewy foundation shade, sheer lipstick and colors from Avon's brown collection.

1. For foundation, Lala used Avon Cake Foundation in Subtle Tan.

2. Because Uchie has droopy eyes, she blended three shades from Avon Color Silk Finish Eye Shadow Quad to give it more drama. She used a dark shade, Dark Earth, from the lashline to the crease, blended it with Dusky Olive, and finished it with Prairie Sand to highlight Uchie's browbone. Lala finished the look with Avon Color Wash Off Waterproof Mascara in Black and Avon Color Eye and Brow Makeup in Natural Brown to put more definition on the eyes.

3. For the cheeks, she used Avon Color Natural Radiance Blush Duo in Amber Light to highlight the apple of Uchie's cheeks.

4. Finally, Lala finished the look with Avon Color Ultra Color Rich Renewable Lipstick in Teaberry and Glazewear Liquid Lip Color in Berry Cool.

UCHIE Aliwalas

Learning the ABCs of fashion–locally

BY MARGIE ESTRELLA

IT'S amazing that the Philippines, a country filled with designers, has never had an institution for fashion education. Now, St. Scholastica's College and La Salle College International have established the Philippine International School of Fashion (PISF) to provide students, as its brochure says, with "international design knowledge, exposing them to sound business and marketing practices for the apparel industry."

It is important to realize that fashion is not simply about designing clothes. There are many details involved in designing. How many times have you walked into a store and saw a fantastic shirt just to find out it bunched up at the sides? Or a pair of pants that fit almost perfectly but was too high-waisted? The proper techniques have to be acquired if these small mistakes are to be remedied.

Business side

Fashion has a business side as well. It involves product analysis and evaluation, purchase planning, distribution control and physical layout of the merchandise. Advertising and public relations are also important. Even if a store has great clothes, but it is not promoted and its merchandise are poorly arranged and overpriced, how can it expect to gain customers? A product has to be marketed to be attractive to the buyer and profitable to the seller. These are merely some aspects of fashion marketing.

The usual practice is for one interested to become a part of the industry to enroll in a decent fashion school abroad. This is all fine and well if one has the financial means. One can also apprentice with an established designer locally.

ANDRÉE Belanger, director general of the school, in the drafting room

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Local fashion training gets a boost with the Philippine International School of Fashion

The PISF offers the best of both worlds. It is recognized worldwide and has articulation agreements with 19 other countries, which means that classes taken here will be fully credited abroad with other fashion schools, such as the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. In addition, staying in the country equips the local fashion industry to compete with the foreign market.

Local needs

Local fashion education is also more attentive to the demands of the local market. The current mentality needs to change. There is so much emphasis on making it big abroad, but not enough is paid on the untapped market of the Philippines. There should be greater familiarity with local needs.

Andrée Belanger, director general of the PISF, is quite aware of this. "We live in a tropical country that has great beaches," she said. "And yet the number of locally designed and made swimsuits are few and far between." Most stores here sell nothing but imported swimsuits. Of course, these suits sell for they look good and fit well. But it is also true consumers don't have much choice.

Another area that needs improvement is the expatriate market. Local brands have ignored the fact that expatriates tend to be taller and bigger than the average Filipino. According to Belanger, local clothes don't carry her size so she has to go for imported clothes.

Belanger believes in the talent of Filipinos. "The creativity of the Filipinos is out of this world," she said. "The talent is here; it is just a matter of applying oneself. We have a great chance of competing with other Asian countries."

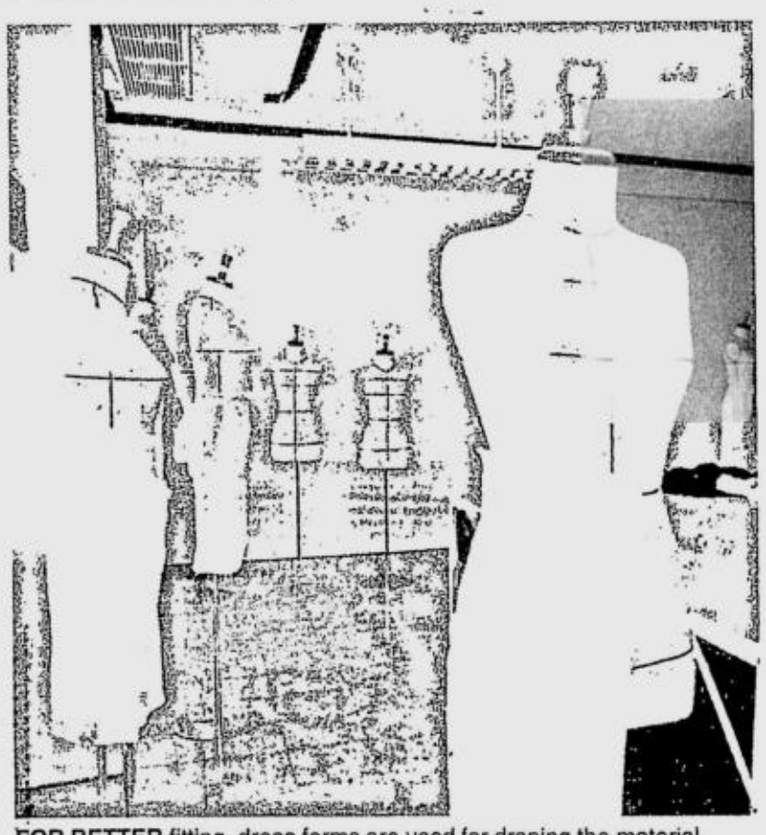
The PISF wants to prepare the Filipino for both the local and the international market. It gives all those with an interest in fashion the right tools to succeed not only in design but in marketing as well.

The school plans to establish an Apparel Production Program next year. It has state-of-the-art facilities, including the PAD System software that enables students to virtually design apparel.

Moreover, the school provides a free placement service for graduates. In short, the PISF is the only fashion school in the country that gives students a competitive edge in the fashion world.

Why wasn't this thought of sooner? It doesn't matter, the point is it's here and it's time to put the Philippines on the fashion design map.

E-mail the author at margie1977@onebox.com



FOR BETTER fitting, dress forms are used for draping the material.

Hassle-free shopping with NBS catalog

WITH THE SUMMER season coming to a close, the sight of crowded shops and long lines at the counters of book and supply stores becomes more and more familiar as students prepare to head back to school.

Back-to-school shopping can sometimes be a tedious task. The exasperation of moving from section to section of the store amid a mob of people as you struggle to find all the items on your list is only one portion of the endeavor. There's still the waiting in line for hours plus making sure you get everything in just one trip so it won't be necessary to go back and brave the crowds or wait in line again.

This school year, National Bookstore helps ease those school shopping blues with their "Back-to-School, Back to National Bookstore Catalogue." Following the success of last year's "Christmas Catalogue," NBS brings hassle-free shopping to its customers once again.

The NBS back-to-school catalogue features a wide range of products from classic to reference books, textbooks and reprints to reviewers and flashcards. It also includes an extensive selection of notebooks, binders, other paper supplies, envelopes, folders, ball pens, markers, writing accessories, arts and technical supplies, tapes, adhesives, bags and other school accessories and equipment.

The catalogues are free and copies are available at all National Bookstore branches nationwide. All the customers have to do is get a copy from the nearest branch, select the items they want to purchase and call 533-8808 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday to Sunday, to place their orders. Customers may order products from the catalogue from May 1 to June 30. In selected areas, purchases P500 and above are delivered free of charge.

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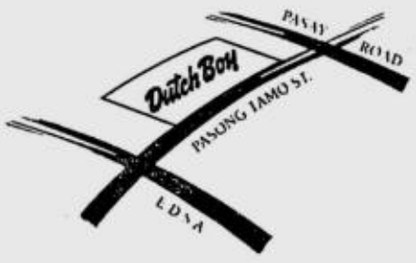

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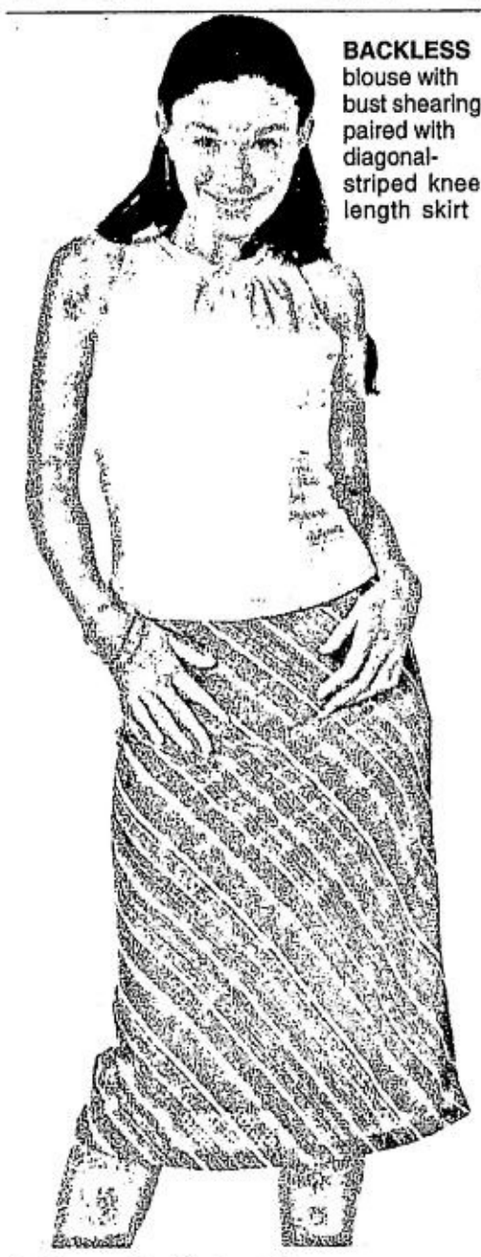


BACKLESS blouse with bust shearing paired with diagonal-striped knee-length skirt

Put it down in print

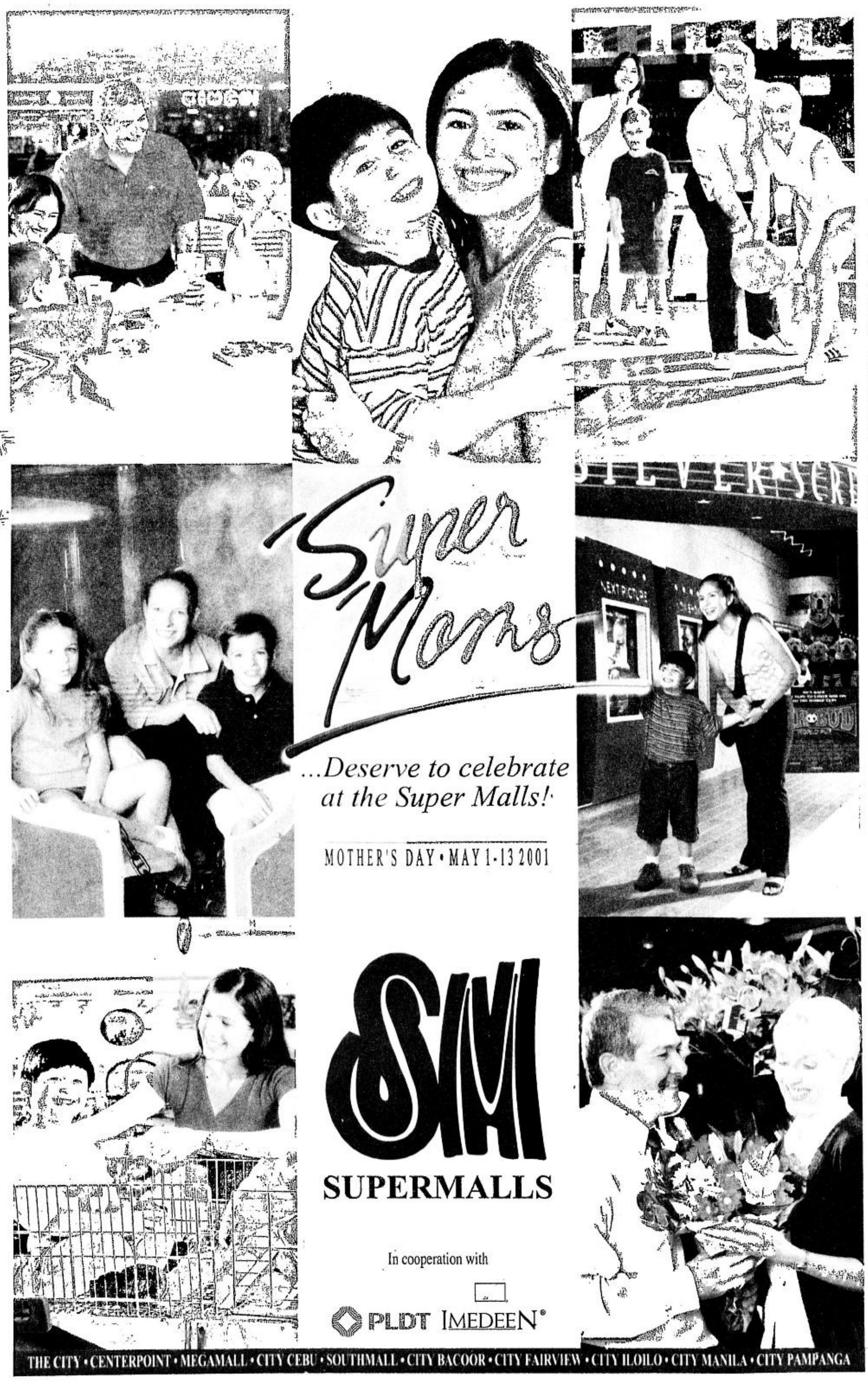
WHEREVER the action is, style is the key. Robinsons Department Store (RDS) lets you in on some summer style tips:

- Turn up the volume on interesting prints like stripes, paisley, florals and geometric prints rendered in sweet feminine colors. Check out RDS' hip diagonal-striped skirt in blue and pink that's paired with pretty pink backless blouse with bust shearing and a sky blue halter blouse—combinations that will surely ignite feverish attention.
- Accessorize with belts in gold, silver, suede or leather and hoop earrings that are so in today.
- Wear those tiny tops that go with practically everything—knee-length or mini skirts, the ubiquitous jeans and trendy leather pants. Take your pick from string halters and tube tops that show off your sun-kissed skin.
- They say "shoes make a man (and a woman)." Get hold of those sexy slingbacks, frilly sandals, fashionable mules, thongs, stilettos or low-heeled slides that complement your wardrobe.
- Highlight your personality in whatever get-up you're in. The secret to the ultimate glam look is confidence, which comes with being comfortable with who you are and what you're wearing. Why not add a touch of blush or lipstick to highlight your pretty features?

Color is the key in summer dressing—day or night. RDS' summer collection offers a selection of summer wear, shoes, makeup and accessories. The choice is yours.

See for yourself RDS' summer wear at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place (Manila, Imus, Cebu and Bacolod), RDS Cainta, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Alabang and Waltermart Sta. Rosa.

PINK overlapped spaghetti-strapped blouse with neckline fagotting and geometric-printed skirt



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Tony Padilla makes flower arrangements that make your mom smile
Story on page F6

Obsessive-compulsive in style
Story on page F4

Ruffa Gutierrez on her own
Story on page F3

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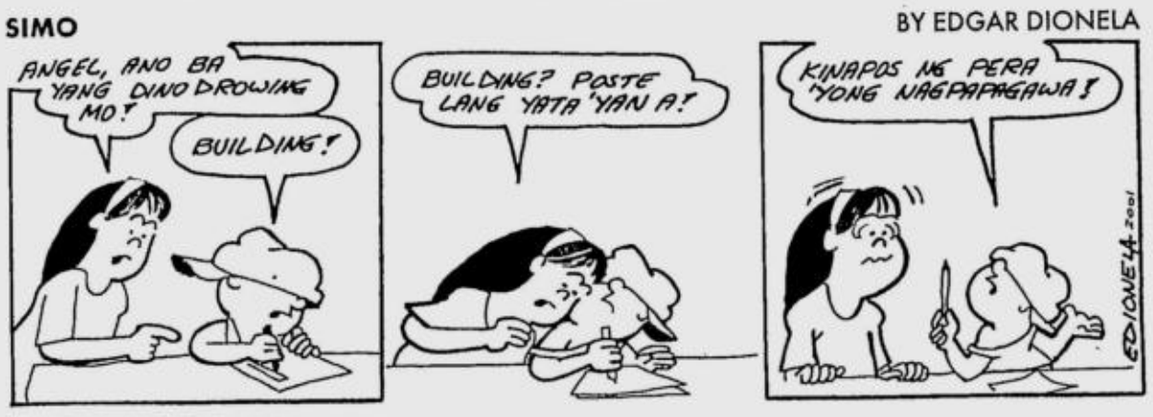
A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER — BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY — BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO — BY EDGAR DIONELA



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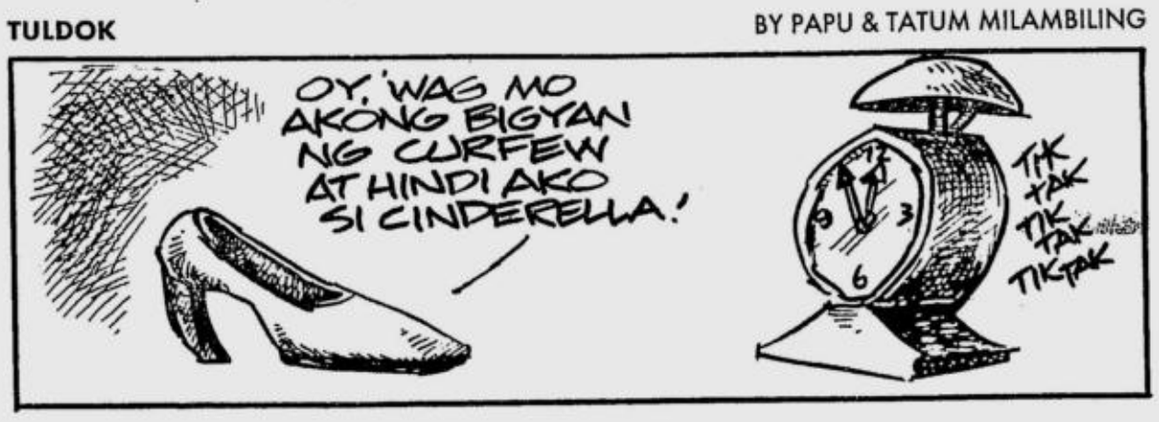


HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Salvador Dali, Irving Berlin, Denver Pyle, Natasha Richardson, Jonathan Jackson, Roark Critchlow, Louis Farrakhan

Happy Birthday: Keep your emotions under wraps. You will find yourself easily distracted if you try to take on too many issues all at once. Don't let your vision be clouded by the pressures put on you by others. Let the driving force within you lead to the success you've been dreaming about. Your numbers: 8, 11, 29, 33, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't forget about your lover; otherwise, deception and arguments will develop. Be accommodating. A night out on the town should keep the relationship harmonious.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your desire to travel will lead to your travel agent. Your second alternative should be attending cultural events that have a foreign flavor. Try to do something that will include the whole family.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You should be looking to buy a house or cottage. The investment will be well worth your while. Don't let elders discourage you. You must seize the opportunity while it's there.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expect your mate to be more attentive today. Be ready to reciprocate with equal affection, and your relationship will be passionate, stable and lasting. It's time to make future plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be surprised at just how successful you can be. Go for the gold and don't let others stand in your way. You might want to look into a small-business venture of your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let situations get out of hand. Make sure you have all the pertinent facts before you take action. False information from someone trying to start problems should be expected.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Friends will bring opportunities. Don't hesitate to ask for advice or favors. New love interests will surface if you get involved in groups. Your charm will entice possible mates.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to take special care of your luggage if you are traveling today. You will find yourself in a romantic situation. Be careful not to come on too strong.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put some of your innovative ideas into your work. Changes are necessary to improve efficiency. Love interests will develop through work. Be discreet to avoid rumors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep busy. Don't allow others to depress you or lower your self-esteem. You need encouragement from your emotional partner, not criticism.

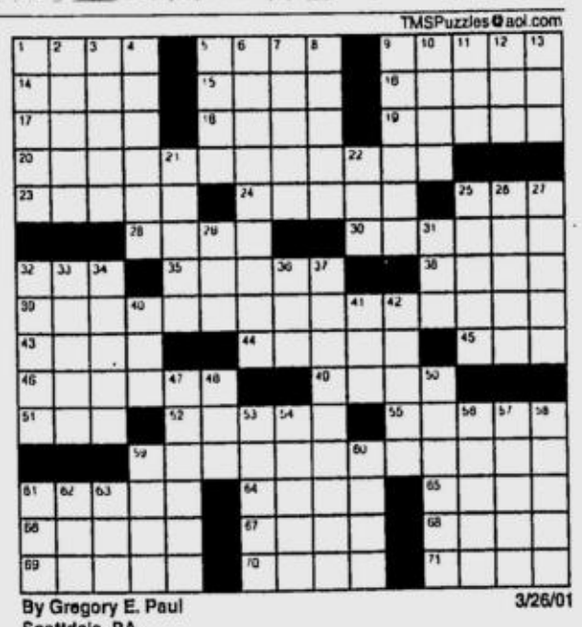
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This will not be the best time to deal with authority figures. You will incur difficulties while dealing with institutions or government agencies. Patience will pay off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be drawn to group endeavors. Be careful not to let others cost you. Involvement in children's groups will certainly be an eye-opener. You should volunteer for fund-raising events.

Birthday Baby: Your driving force will be an asset in achieving your goals. You can easily interest people in your visionary ideas and convince them to help you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

3/26/01

ACROSS
1 Actor Damon
5 Play divisions
9 Heartbreak
14 Monster of myth
15 Storyline
16 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"
17 Leo's comment
18 Yemen capital
19 Choose to compete
20 10/31 catch phrase
23 Consumed
24 Minute amounts
25 Occupation
28 Temporary funds
30 Withdraw
32 Egyptian cobra
35 Small songbirds
38 Dust Bowl migrant
39 Quiet quarrel?
43 Garden gate-crasher
44 Too saccharine
45 Some: Fr.
46 1999 U.S. Open tennis champion
49 Port intro
51 Real profit
52 Got to one's feet
55 Prepares copy
59 Pat Benatar hit
61 Braid
64 Big, band tote
65 "Carry on __"
66 Detroit player
67 Barely manages
68 Hard work
69 Worship
70 Few and far between
71 Smarting

DOWN
1 "__ d'Arthur"
2 Greek market
3 Characteristic
4 Toyota model
5 Lhasa __
6 Licorice sticks
7 Kermo Sabe's friend
8 Establish
9 Animal fat
10 Go on a tirade
11 Sheraton parent co.
12 Language suffix
13 Not against
21 Generally recognized
22 Acoustic organ
25 Exchanged witticisms
26 Sheeplike
27 Sugar source
29 Fleming of "Jeopardy"
31 Lady of the house
32 Egyptian dam
33 Blockade
34 Fabric fold
36 Gun grp.
37 Woody Allen film
40 Begley and Meese
41 Bonzo or Clyde
42 Novelist Anne
47 "No Exit" dramatist
48 Wrath
50 Ukases
53 Horse opera
54 German plane
56 Icy abode
57 "They Died with __ Boots on"
58 Lifted with light fingers
59 Layer
60 Let up
61 School org.
62 Top
63 In the past

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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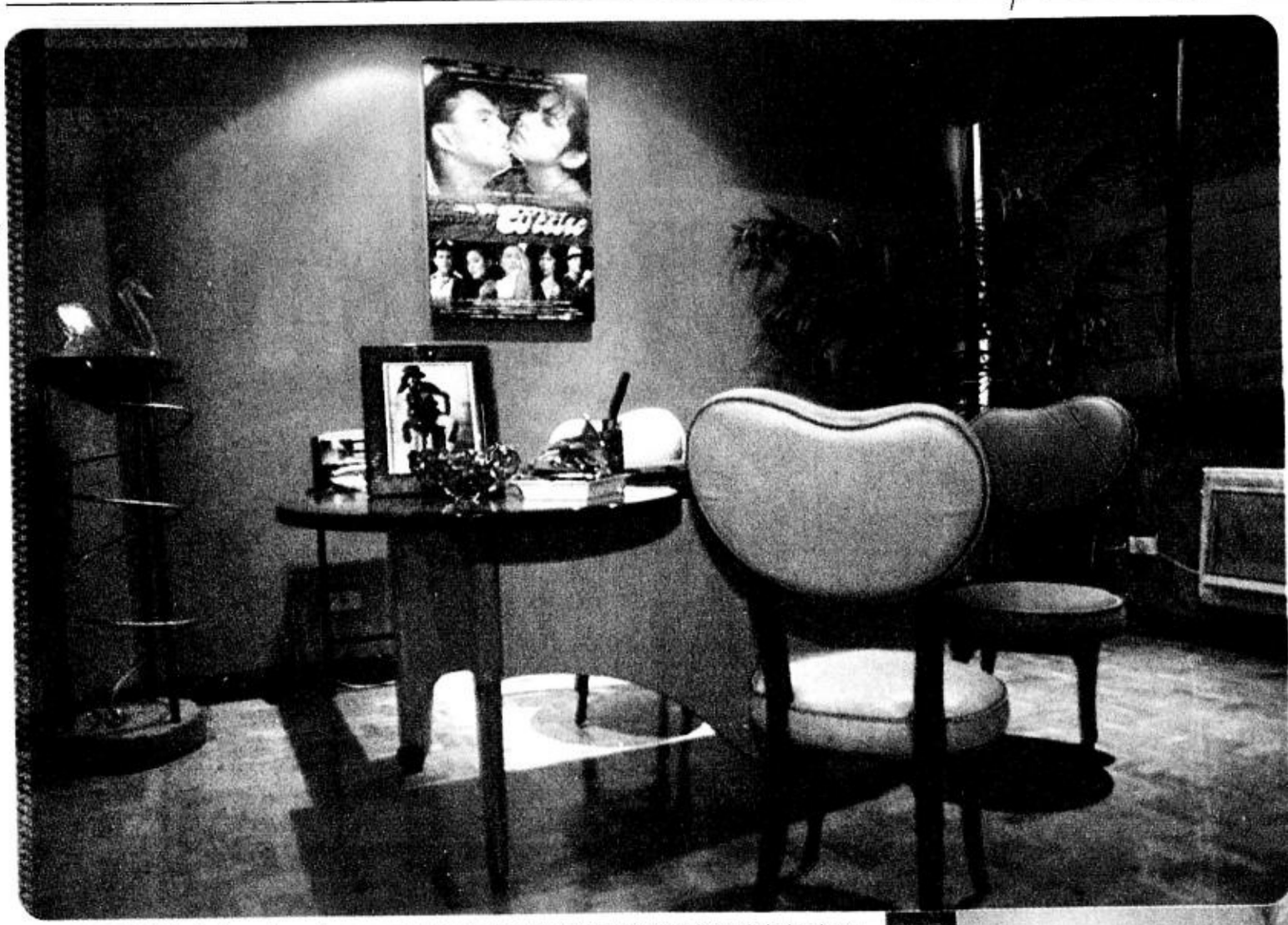
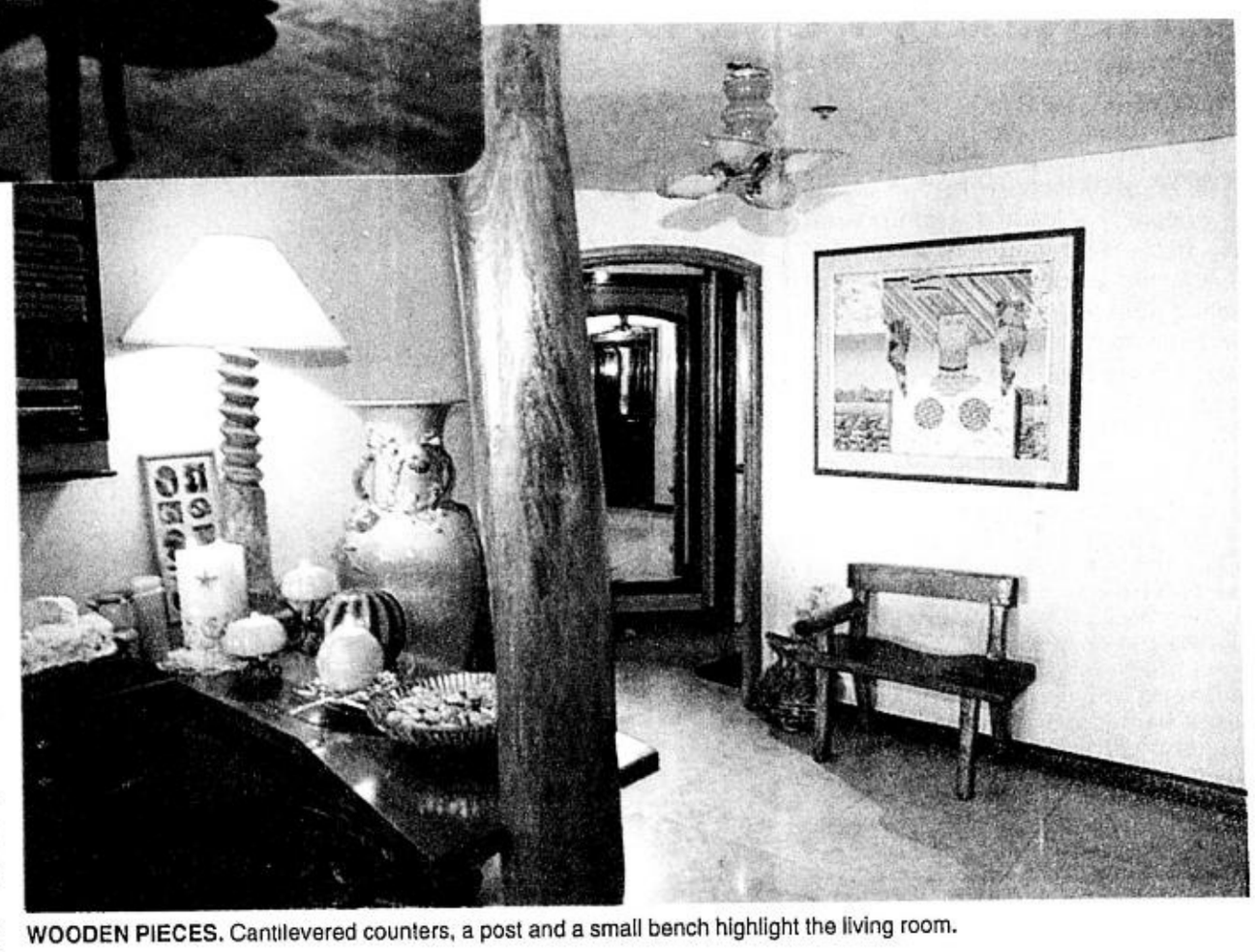


PRIVATE OFFICE. Ruffa works on her computer in this room, with geometric-shaped chairs done by Ernest Santiago.

Ruffa Gutierrez is enjoying the fruits of independence in a nicely appointed place in Greenhills

TURN ON THE LAMP LIGHT. Even the lamp has wooden spiral posts. A huge ceramic jar adorns the living room.



WOODEN PIECES. Cantilevered counters, a post and a small bench highlight the living room.

On her own, in her space

By Leah Salterio
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

TRYING to live independently at an early age is probably hardest for an eldest child who is also the only girl in the brood.

And if you are someone popular, with an overprotective mom, and consistently controversial like Ruffa Gutierrez, you probably won't even think of leaving the house.

That's why it took Ruffa a lot of years and arguments with her mom before she could live on her own in the Greenhills condo unit she had bought back in 1994 when she was only 19.

It was only in 1998 that Ruffa finally moved to her posh condo unit from the family house in White Plains, QC.

"I was 23 when I left our house and I felt it was about time to live alone," Ruffa shares. "It was very difficult to move out of the house and give up my bedroom."

Her decision to live independently triggered a major fight with her mom, who even came out on "Dong Puno Live" to chastise Ruffa on nationwide TV.

It also caused the fiery Annabelle to vow never to set foot in the condo again. But last Saturday, after more than three years, Annabelle broke her word and visited the condo very early to fix it in time for the Inquirer pictorial.

"Thanks to Inquirer," Ruffa smiles. "Otherwise, I would not probably see my mom here again. When I started working in the United States and lived there, my mom pretty much left me on my own. But whenever I'm here, she still calls every five minutes. I miss that when I'm in the US because I'm so independent there."

There was hardly any fixing needed in the condo, however. It was perhaps as tony as when Annabelle started buying its appliances, furnishings and fixtures, after Ruffa acquired it.

"It was my mom who bought everything for this condo," Ruffa proudly says. "She decorated this for me."

Ruffa purchased the condo in 1994 using her talent fee for a Regal Films movie as down payment.

"At that time, I had no plans of living alone," she says. "It was just a half-way house for me when I'm taping or shooting. I used it as a place to rest."

She discloses it was the biggest investment she made, until she bought a house in Beverly Hills in Los Angeles three years ago. The place has served as her residence in the United States, where she is a contract talent of Century Productions.

The interiors of the Greenhills condo, tastefully done by Ernest Santiago, reportedly cost Ruffa a whopping P1 million.

The place has a floor area of 170 sq m and has three bedrooms with their own baths. No space was probably too big or small for Santiago, who managed to transform every room and corner into an elegant finish.

Subdued colors

The ceilings have moldings, the colors are subdued, and the furniture, refined and uncluttered. The sliding glass window offers a view of the sprawling metropolis and provides the light during the day for the living room.

Wooden posts, cantilevered counter, wooden benches and chairs highlight the living room, where a three-piece furniture set in hues of maroon and moss green was also designed by Santiago. Huge ceramic jars are strewn all over the area. Even the lampshades have spiral wooden posts.

Mounted Egyptian artworks in papyrus hanging on the living room walls compete for attention with a huge movie poster of Ruffa from the remake of "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop."

A large shelf with exquisite gilt finish in black and gold displays portraits of Ruffa as actress, model and beauty queen. A small framed photo of her mom Annabelle and dad Eddie is in one corner.

Endless editions of her book-bound clippings through the years also have found space in the same shelf, where Ruffa's books are neatly arranged. The titles vary from "The Road Less Travelled" by M. Scott Peck to "Swan" by Naomi Campbell and "Puerto Vallarta Squeeze" by Robert James Waller.

One title that's hard to ignore is "How to Make It in Hollywood," which is apparently Ruffa's dream.

She also has volumes of Versace's collection of designs, plus travel books on Italy, Bali and other interesting places.

Beside the huge TV is an antique radio, which Ruffa got from a store on Rodeo Drive.

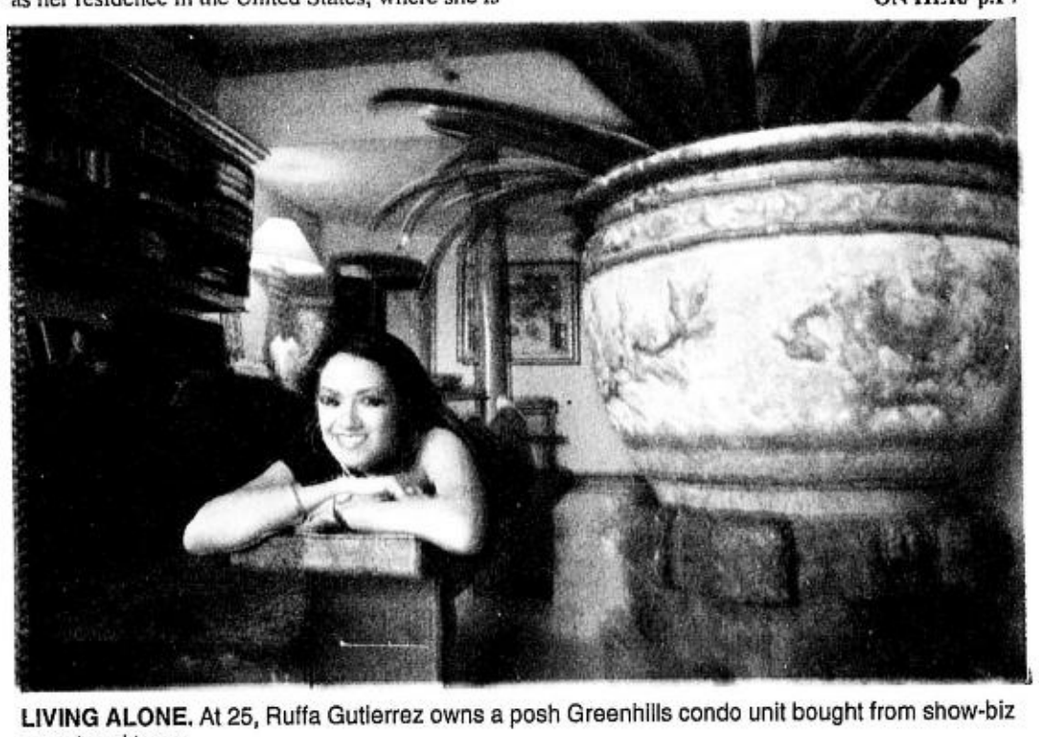
A small meeting room with a round table, chairs and an extension phone line is also used as an alternative reception area. It has a small refrigerator with magnets of Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt and Lynda Carter as Wonder Woman.

A huge white board lists bills Ruffa has yet to pay—Meralco, PLDT, SkyCable, EasyCall, Globe, etc.

Movie posters

Also hanging on the walls are Ruffa's movie posters of "Binibini ng Aking Pangarap" and "Island of Desire." Also hanging is the poster

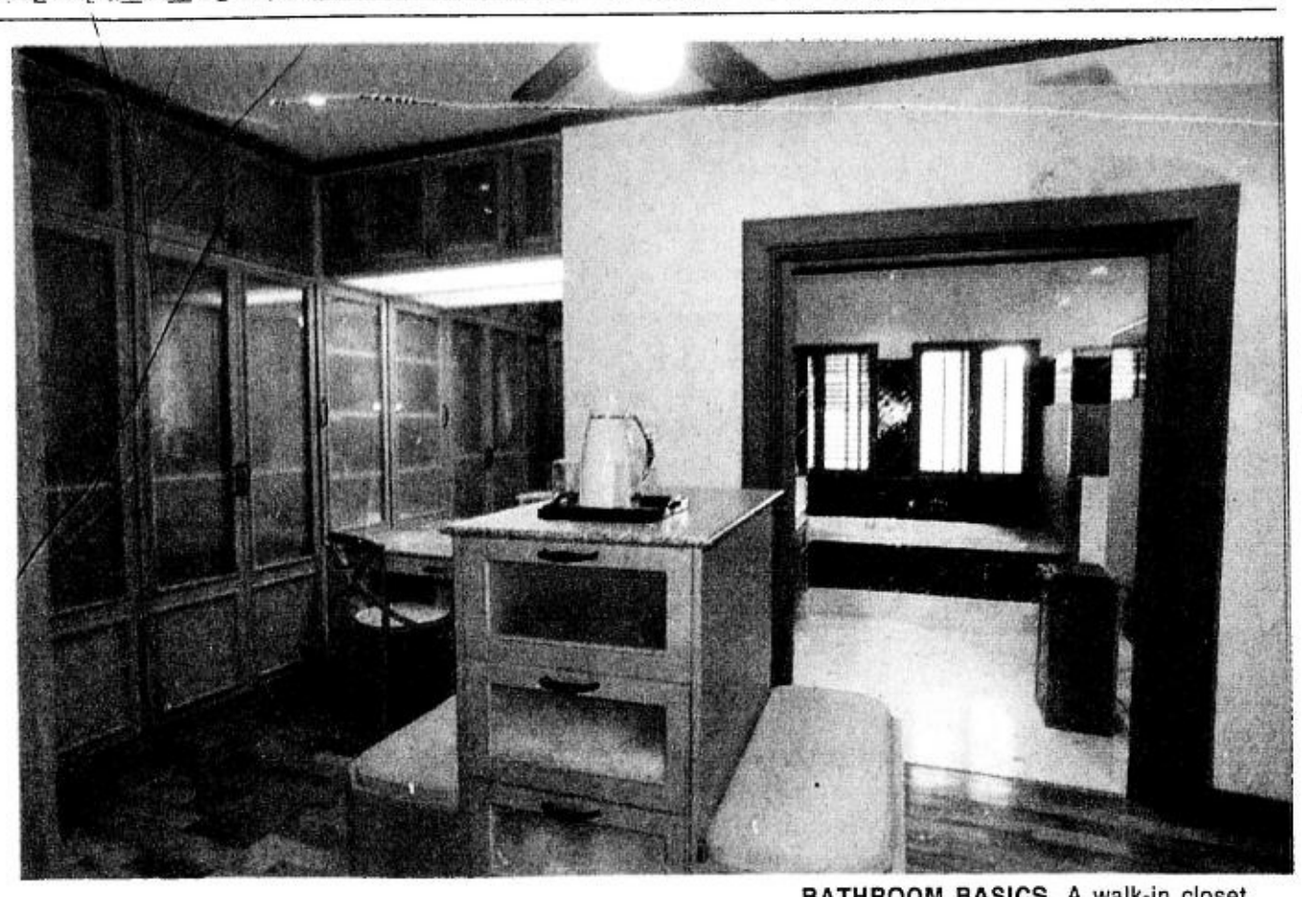
ON HER/ p.F7



LIVING ALONE. At 25, Ruffa Gutierrez owns a posh Greenhills condo unit bought from show-biz sweat and tears.

SHELTERED LIFE. The husband's favorite spot is the terrace, where he sits in this teak garden set to sip coffee and read the newspaper.

THE BREAKFAST nook, the wife's favorite area in the house, is where she and her friends spend lazy afternoons.



BATHROOM BASICS. A walk-in closet with opaque glass panels to facilitate quick identification of clothes. Note the island cabinet bordered by a pair of benches.

Obsessive-compulsive in style

A house in Ayala-Alabang issues from its mistress' extreme sense of order and yearning for style autonomy

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

TOP architects from one of the country's leading architectural firms were tapped to design this airy, two-story home somewhere in Ayala-Alabang. But when the time came to choose the furniture and accent pieces, the mistress of the house saw no need to hire an interior designer.

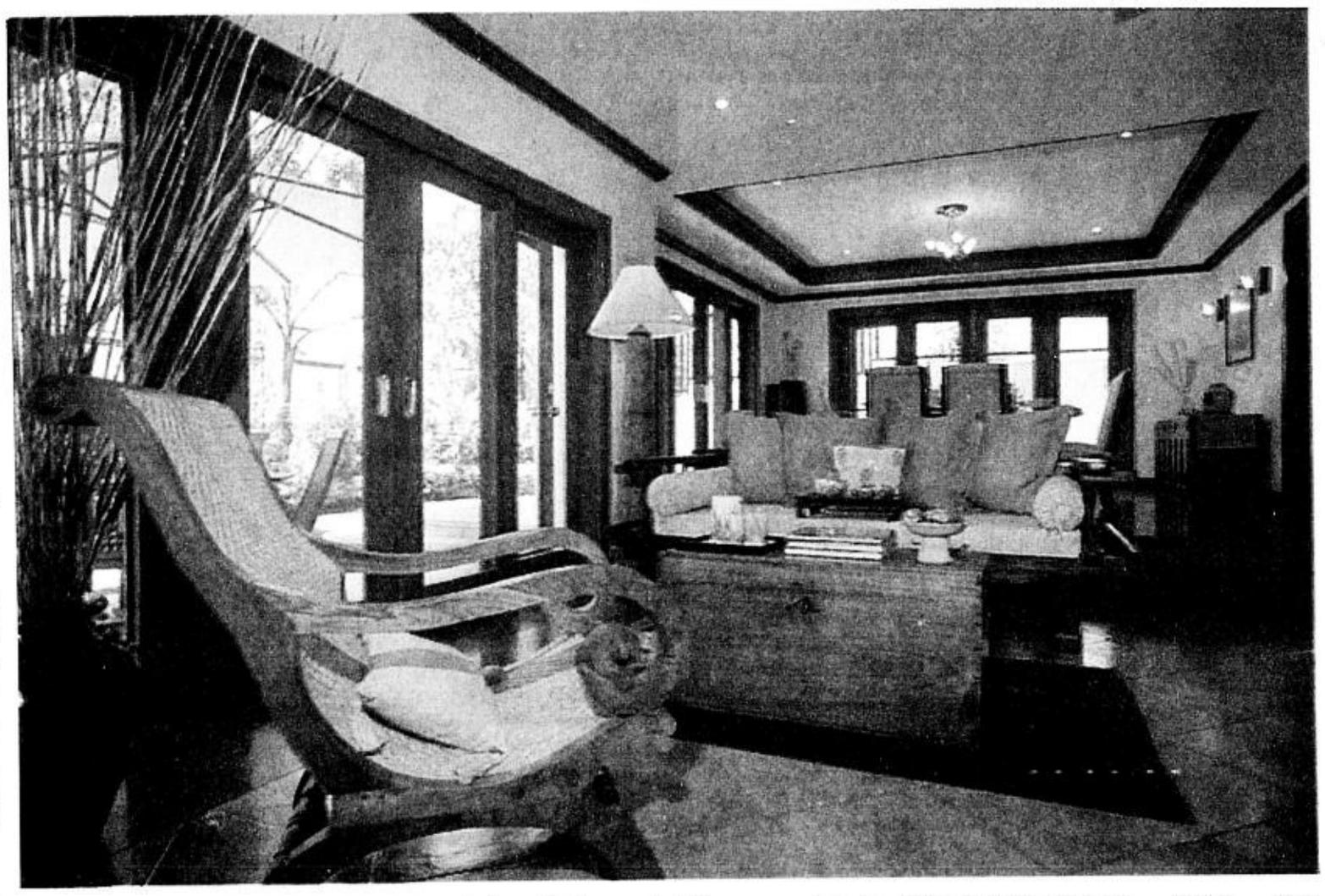
Of course, the family could afford to pay one. But she simply didn't relish the idea of living in a home that might turn out to be too contrived or devoid of their individual personalities.

"I want guests to feel that this is us," says the woman, who requested anonymity. "I want them to feel welcome and see how we really live."

In short, she didn't want someone else to dictate the house's look. This happened to a friend of her sister. The house was flawless and finely furnished, she says, but it failed to reveal the slightest hint of the owner's personality.

With two growing girls in the family, the couple prefers casual living to a stiff lifestyle confined to intimidating corners filled with priceless antiques and *babasagin*. You can sit and relax in this tropical dwelling without fear of breaking something.

Before architect Pinggoy Mañosa and his team went to work on the house, the wife, of course, first sought the hubby's inputs. He wasn't hard to please. No fancy den or mini bar for him. All he wanted was an airy home with enough cabinets for his golf clubs.



ORIENTAL FLAVOR. Furniture and accent pieces were sourced mostly from the Philippines. Huge sliding doors continue up to the elevated dining room.

Favorite corner

His favorite corner is a terrace with a teak garden set accessible from the indoor lanai. There, he sips his coffee while reading the day's newspaper. The two girls, 9 and 3, often stay in the playroom upstairs with their friends.

"My favorite spot is the breakfast nook," she says. "I often bring my friends there on slow days so we can sit and catch up on each other's lives."

The hubby did get to have his wish. To allow cross ventilation and natural light in, huge picture windows and sliding glass doors with screened panels framed by dark wood open to a landscaped garden.

She did away with heavy curtains to maximize natural airflow. Instead, Teflon-coated Roman shades rolled across the living room windows deflect the harsh afternoon sun, while ensuring the family's privacy.

Other attempts to bring the outside in include an indoor pond by the foyer, the focal point of a vestibule virtually exposed to the sky save for a nearly invisible layer of screen.

Dozens of carp and catfish emerge from underneath hidden crevices, crisscrossing the entire pond in every direction on sunny days. The swishing sounds give way to the trickle of pouring rain during wet months. Should the shower turn into a storm, she simply pulls a rope and out spreads a white canopy.

"The indoor pond or garden is a Mañosa trademark," she says. "I'm glad we chose water over greenery. It's so relaxing. The kids just love feeding the fish."

CONSTRASTING shades of fabrics on the daybed

HIP TO BE SQUARE. The wife chose a square table made of glass over a round one. Wood-framed chairs are upholstered in camel.

Textures and structures

Textures and structures are cleverly combined to make an otherwise simple house interesting. Dark *narra* planks, for example, border the ceramic-tiled floor in light terracotta. Recessed ceiling framed by dark wood makes for a strong counterpoint above the *sala* and dining room.

Due to the absence of walls and dividers, the first floor—from the living room, lanai, to the dining room—looks bigger than it really is. To provide a sense of borders, one area is elevated from the next.

"Instead of leveling the ground," she says, "the architect worked around the elevated lot by coming up with a multilevel ground floor."

Furniture pieces are decidedly simple and mostly in solid or contrasting colors. Some pieces, such as an antique cabinet she turned into a CD compartment, were handed down from her mother. Others were custom-built or bought from local suppliers such as the Complete Indoors.

An L-shaped sofa in sage green cotton dominates the living room. Since each member of the family has a favorite spot in the house, the living room has become the least frequented area in this home.

She found a place in the lanai for a daybed fashioned from an old wheel borrow. Aside from her eclectic selection of accent pieces, the Oriental flavor is very much evident in the off-white seats and throw pillows in tangerine and gray.

A CORNER of the playroom with shelves upon shelves of toys

Something different

Having lived all her life in a house with a round table, the wife wanted something different in the dining room for a change. Since she finds the typical rectangular table too stiff, she settled for a glass-topped square table with frosted edges. Each side can accommodate two upholstered chairs in camel.

"The original was supposed to be half-an-inch thick," she says, referring to the glass. "I had it made even thicker just to play safe."

A sliding double door, also made of frosted glass but this time with clear edges, leads to the kitchen. The wife's attention to efficiency and order is very much evident. Everything, from pots and pans to the week's groceries, is neatly stacked inside custom-built wooden cabinets with meta-stone countertops in teal.

An island cabinet where all the silverware and plates are stored doubles as a workstation. She even had a so-called appliance garage, the kind where you roll down the door, built to keep various coffeemakers and small kitchen equipment in place. The couple, you see, loves good coffee.

The same orderliness is visible on the second floor, especially in the gleaming blue bathroom with a spacious walk-in closet. Aside from carefully grouping each item together, the wife chose opaque glass panels for the closets to help them quickly locate their clothes.

It seems she had everything planned. An island cabinet with multilevel drawers comes with opposite benches. Just like in an old shoe store, the couple can sit on either side of the bench and put on their socks or slip into their shoes. A sliding door has a built-in full-length mirror.

"I'm so organized," says the wife with a chuckle. "My friends tease me that I'm an OC (obsessive-compulsive)."

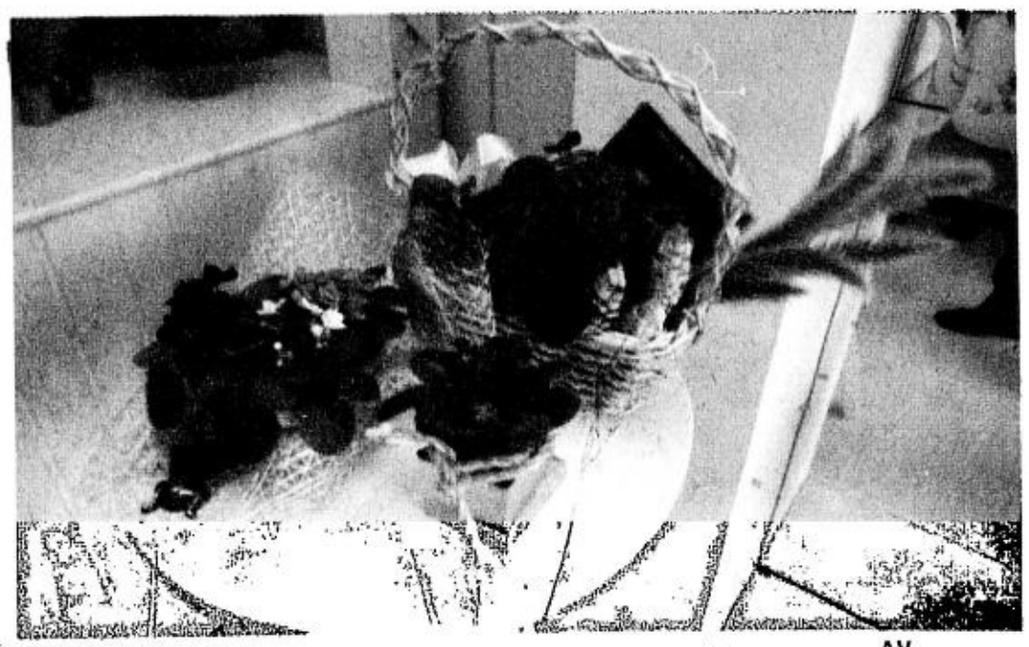
Even a seasoned interior designer would be hard put to match this woman's simple yet unique requirements.

SPICK-AND-SPAN. The kitchen's custom-built wooden cabinets with meta-stone countertops in teal.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

AFRICAN Violet "Neon Hello"

AV "Precious Pink"



AV "Rhapsodie", "Marching Band" and "Ness Biking Maiden"

The African Queen graces Philippine gardens

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

AFRICAN Violets are the most popular house plants for many good reasons. They are not only known as ideal home companion plants that produce flowers throughout the year, they also make a charming decor on tabletops, cabinets, windowsills and indoor plant displays.

These plants fascinate many plant hobbyists, particularly those who love to "tinker" with plants. The African Violet is one plant that loves to be coddled and fussed over.

AV fanciers (that's how hobbyists call themselves) enjoy doing unusual things with the violets like taking a leaf and submerging the stem in water to produce many baby plants. Or, with the use of a matchstick they exchange the minuscule pollens between cowers to produce seeds that will grow into new varieties of plants with surprising colors.

Some of them also invent their own potting soil. Others grow their violets "the soil-less way," as in planting them on pebbles sitting on water. Ingenious folks have even devised a system of watering the plants, the lazy way called "water conduction." This is done by connecting the potted plant to a mini water reservoir with the use of a strand of yarn.

Care

These plants, however, need a good dose of tender, loving care to flourish in Metro Manila. Indeed, they are perfect for people—like most mothers—who'd love to fuss over the delicate plants and "baby" them to no end. With such attention, the plants reward the grower with their famous crown of dainty flowers in various shades and combinations of colors.

Today's local gardeners are re-discovering these imported plants that were popular years ago when pollution and heat were not so bad in Manila. Those were the days when Alice Javier, a popular name in the gardening circuit, led the African Violet Society of the Philippines. It was affiliated with the US AV Society that claimed to be the biggest garden club in the US.

However, the members eventually lost interest because they did not know how to grow the plants.

Bag of tricks

Much of the credit for re-introducing the violets to local gardeners goes to a hobbyist in Antipolo City who, after years of experimenting, finally hit on the right formula to grow the difficult house plants.

With her bag of tricks, Adelina Almazar now grows thousands of African Violets without previous problems like mealy bug infestation, plant rot and "sour" potting soil. The key to her success, she disclosed, is a soil-less potting mixture that she sterilizes by "cooking." Her recipe consists of shredded sphagnum moss, finely chopped tree fern roots and small-grade perlite. The mixture is moistened and cooked over fire until it's light and dry.

Alamzar is one hobbyist who buys new varieties during trips abroad, or she selects from the latest catalogues and orders them by mail. In bloom now in her garden are beauties with such fancy names as Red Rooster, Sugar Cubes, Marching Hand, Irish Flirt, Precious Pink, Neon Hello, and Ness Biking Maiden. They are placed on wire tables and are protected from direct sunlight by layers of fishnet.

"I always get so carried away when I propagate the plants through leaf cuttings that sometimes I have more plants than I can handle," she told us when we visited her garden. To make room for new plants, she said she sells the violets to garden and flower shops. At the time we were in the violet garden, the owner of a new flower shop, Jardin sa Morato, was buying pots of blooming violets to sell to customers on Mother's Day.

Almazar, by the way, is a housewife whose kids have "left the nest," so to speak. "African Violets keep me so busy, I have very little time left to miss my children,'" she said.

Violets are good plants for garden therapy, she added. "I can show other mothers how to enjoy these fascinating houseplants, but they have to see the plants first."

Interested folks can call Almazar at 696-1246. Her plants are also on special Mother's Day display at the Jardin sa Morato, 111 Tomas Morato, Quezon City. Call 372-0689 and ask for Len Palad.

Tita V. Giron

AV "Sugar Cubes"

The African Violet has made a comeback in local horticulture, thanks to an Antipolo hobbyist who has found a formula to grow the difficult house plants

"**NEON** Hello" and lovely pink and white selections

COLLECTION ITEM: "Mini-mini Irish Flirt"

LILIUMS and trachelium flowers in front of tulip painting by Jae Dougal, an up-and-coming Filipina artist in Vancouver, Canada

FLOWERS for Nanay: Anthuriums, honeycomb ginger, bromeliads and willow

MOTHER'S Day gift: Basket of basil and rosemary herbs with ornamental pineapples

Flowers to make Mom smile

Unique floral arrangements by Tony Padilla pay tribute to mothers

BY TITA V. GIRON
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

MOM, don't just sniff the flowers you will receive on Mother's Day, especially if it is arranged by Tony Padilla, one of the highly sought floral designers in the country today.

As you can see on this page, the flowers are truly works of art. They were conceptualized and executed by an architect with a lot of expertise in floral designs.

You may be interested to know that Padilla's flower arrangements, even the simplest ones, are prepared with as much gusto and flourish as the major productions and half-million-peso wedding packages he routinely does. Or for that matter, like any of the flowers ordered by special customers Fernando Zobel, Mr. and Ms Ramon del Rosario and Antonio Roxas.

Utmost care

After watching Padilla arrange flowers at his shop on Makati Avenue, life with flowers will never be the same for us. Why, he treated each flower and leaf with utmost care and practically with reverence! Before wielding the cutting knife or pruning scissors, for example, he took his own sweet time to compare shapes and sizes while he conceptualized the various arrangements for this newspaper. "I have to know for sure if they complement one another," he explained.

"I handle the materials with care because I know they've come a long way from gardens where growers lavish them with tender loving care," he said. He buys materials at the Dangwa terminal flower center and from local suppliers and distributors of imported flowers.

"These are shipped on airplanes while others are transported by provincial buses. In the process, the growers make sure they're well packaged and stored to protect them from damage," Padilla added.

The trachelium, tulips, protea and curly willows are flown in from Holland. Chrysanthemums and hydrangeas are from Davao highlands; roses from Batangas; ornamental grass flowers, ginger flowers from Los Baños, bromeliad flowers and plants from Lucban; and carnations from Baguio and Bukidnon. The foliage materials such as papyrus reeds, *kamuning*, dracaena, *rosal*, *sinamomo* and calatheas are from Laguna.

"EAST meets West" arrangement of Holland tulips, tropical bromeliads, American lilies and locally grown bromeliads.

LOCATION: BELEN KING'S RESIDENCE

Watching Padilla as he arranged the flowers in his flower shop Floral Designs was like seeing a silent movie in color. Surrounded by greens and the flaming colors of bromeliad flowers, he worked quietly and with full concentration. He explained to us during a break that he used to spend a lot of time conceptualizing the flower arrangement. Now, he does it fast. After all, he has been in the business for 15 years.

Major production

Fifteen years ago, Floral Design was a two-person operation between Padilla and his partner Vangie Go, who took turns arranging and delivering the flowers to customers that included Meralco. Today, a skeletal force in the busy shop would include two in-house flower arrangers (more are hired for major productions), one messenger-delivery man, a secretary and one driver.

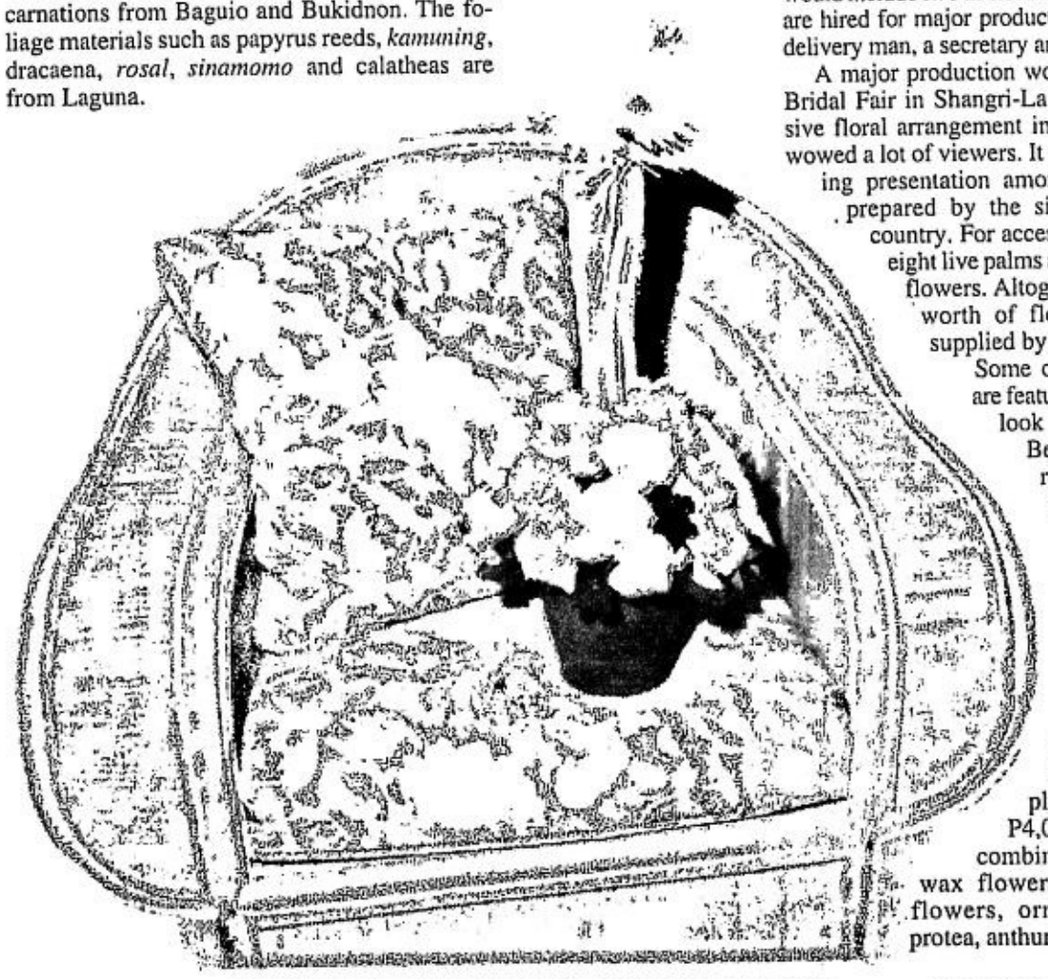
A major production would be like the recent Bridal Fair in Shangri-La where Padilla's massive floral arrangement in pink and lilac colors wowed a lot of viewers. It was the grandest looking presentation among the other exhibits prepared by the six top florists in the country. For accessories, he set out with eight live palms and several ball-shaped flowers. Altogether, he used P85,000 worth of flowers sponsored and supplied by Holland Tulips.

Some of Padilla's best works are featured on this page. If they look perfectly at home in Belen King's beautiful residence, they are all specially arranged for Mother's Day with inspiration, no doubt, from Padilla's late mother, Noemi Guerrero.

Prices of featured flower arrangements range from a few hundred pesos for the flowering Gloxinia plants and herbs to about P4,000 for the impressive combination of trachelium, wax flowers, honeycomb ginger flowers, ornamental pineapples, protea, anthurium, liliums and tulips.

Call 890-5925/5927

TONY Padilla mixes a medley of ornamental pineapple, protea and bromeliad flowers.



TRADITIONAL arrangement of Naranga roses and gerbera

BASKET of blooming Gloxinia plants

On her own, in her space

(From page F3)

she did for Beer na Beer.

In one corner of the room is a Lladro artwork of a woman with a flower on her long hair, and a white horse.

"I bought that in Singapore because it reminds me of my 'Pinakamagandang Hayop' movie," Ruffa says. "We had it shipped to Manila because it's really heavy."

Ruffa's bedroom is cozy, but has two single beds with dainty checkered bed sheets, which is also the exact cloth for the Roman shades.

"Since this was originally planned to be only a half-way house, I didn't really want a huge bed," Ruffa says. "In a way, it's also good because if I have a friend who wants to sleep over, there is always a bed for her.

"When Malacañang was being attacked, Donita Rose and I were in my room and we were watching it on TV. She came over and slept here."

An oil painting by Zalameda looms on the wall.

The classic dresser is devoid of cosmetic clutter. On the side is a leather Versace makeup box. Plastered on the mirror are photos of Ruffa's foreign boyfriend.

Her closet reveals her taste for clothes and shoes that are mostly designer brands.

Another room has been converted into a private office for Ruffa. The geometric chairs in yellow and blue were also done by Santiago. Decorative crystal pieces are displayed in a glass cabinet.

When Ruffa is out of the country, a maid from her mom's house goes to her condo once a week to clean the place.

"When I'm in Manila, I make the most of this house," Ruffa says. "No matter what happens, I'll always keep this place."

TURNING EGYPTIAN. Mounted artworks in papyrus adorn the living room walls.

CHECKERED DESIGN. Ruffa's cozy bedroom has two single beds with dainty sheets.

CLASSIC DRESSER. On the mirror are photos of Ruffa's foreign boyfriend.

A WOODEN door in shiny brown varnish ushers guests into the spacious living room.

IN THE MOVIES. A poster of "Island of Desire" hangs in the office room, which reminds Ruffa of her early days in the movies.

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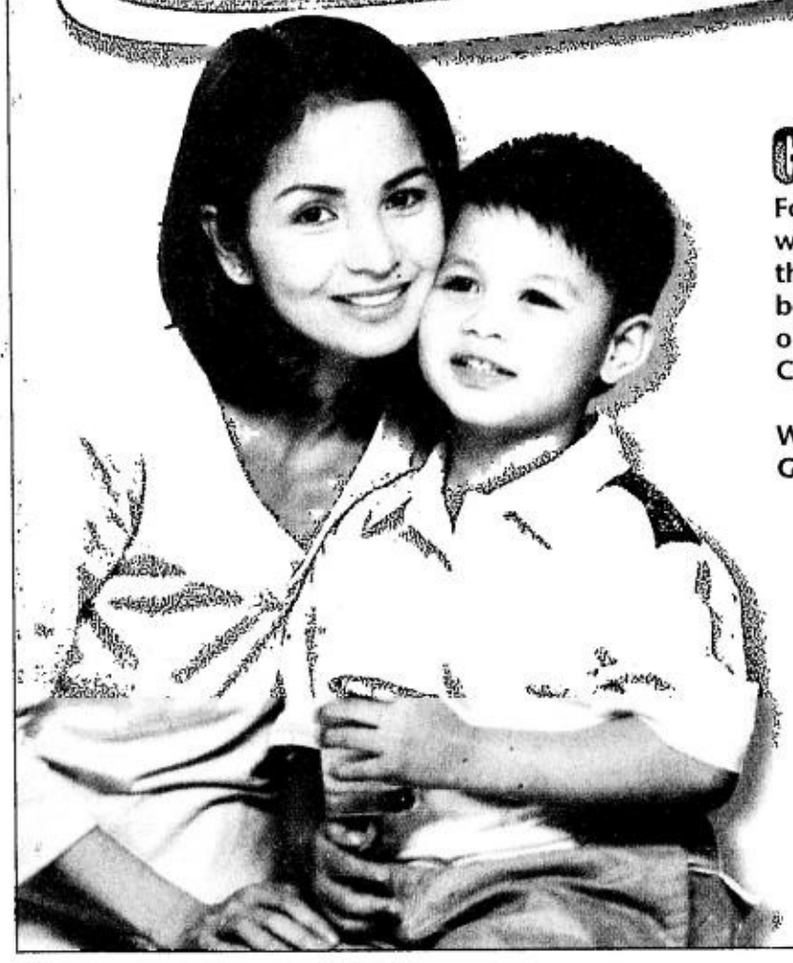

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Ambassadorial dream reaches 50

BY DONNIE RAMIREZ

"MY wife Glecy and I had a dream... and we worked day and night together till we achieved that dream." For Ambassador Bienvenido "Benny" Tantoco Sr., speaking before a glittering assembly of people at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio who came to celebrate with him his 80th year, that dream is, of course, Rustan's.

The store notches its 50th anniversary this year. It has grown from its modest beginnings in what Ambassador Benny calls "a display-in-the-living-room affair" on San Marcelino Street, Malate, into a widely diversified and fully integrated enterprise that encompasses supermarkets, duty-free shops, warehouse-type outlets, franchising and co-licensing, specialty coffee shops, a golf and country club, flower shops and exclusive designer's boutiques.

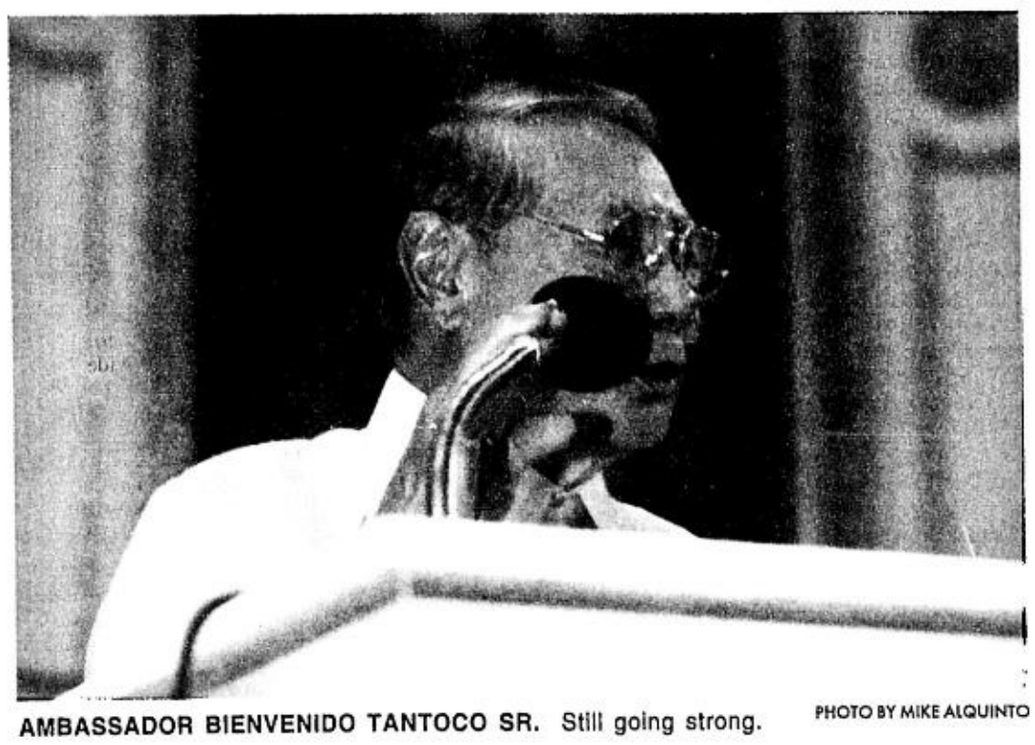
"Today, Rustan is a corporate adult in an economic world where so many other companies come and go in the night," the ambassador continues. "Glecy and I imagined it would be 50 years old one day... and we're glad and proud it now is."

The grand celebration was worthy of the dual milestones. It started with a Thanksgiving Mass at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in San Antonio Village, Makati. The choice of the church was significant because the whole Tantoco clan has a very special devotion to the Sacred Heart. The concelebrated Mass was officiated by the Most Rev. Crisostomo A. Yalung, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Manila, with Msgr. Francisco A. Tantoco Jr. and Rev. Fr. Carmelo Caluag III, S.J., as concelebrants.

Lavish dinner

The celebration peaked in the evening with a lavish dinner reception for some 500 guests held at the NBC Tent. Catered with trademark seamless precision by Via Mare, the kingly feast consisted of homemade *pate de maison* on mesclun, a delicious medley of cauliflower and carrot sabayon and roasted sea bass, capped by a fabulous Grand Marnier parfait with nougatine.

Lending prestige and import to the affair was the attendance of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, escorted by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. The First Couple were seated at the main table beside the dashing birthday celebrator, together with other VIPs like Senators Loren Legarda-Leviste and Jun Magsaysay, Representatives Manny Villar, Manny Ortega and Butz Aquino, Makati Mayor Elenita Binay and husband, former MMDA chair Jejomar Binay, and former senator Sotero Laurel.



AMBASSADOR BIENVENIDO TANTOCO SR. Still going strong. PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO

Hobnobbing with the local dignitaries were some of Rustan's major foreign principals like Peter Maslen, president of Starbucks Coffee in Seattle; Prada vice president Oliver Yang, Charriol Far East Ltd. managing director Peter Ling, Ferragamo Hong Kong managing director Raymond de Malherbe, CK Jeanswear Hong Kong's Myeongshee Lee Matthews, and Ambassador Tantoco's overseas friends like Consul Abdenbi Jaidi and wife Chantal of Morocco, Ambassador Jaime Ingram and wife Nelly from Panama, Dr. Phil Cohen from New Jersey, Msgr. Michael Wrenn from New York and the ambassador's brother Ricio and sister-in-law Sally.

High points

An impressive audio-video presentation chronicling the high points of Ambassador Tantoco's life, as well as milestones in Rustan's 50 years, unreeled after a short invocation by Monsignor Yalung and welcome remarks from the celebrator's only son, Rico Tantoco. The pro-

AMBASSADORIAL/ p.G2

Rustan's, the big dream of Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. and wife Glecy five decades back, is still dreaming big and bold

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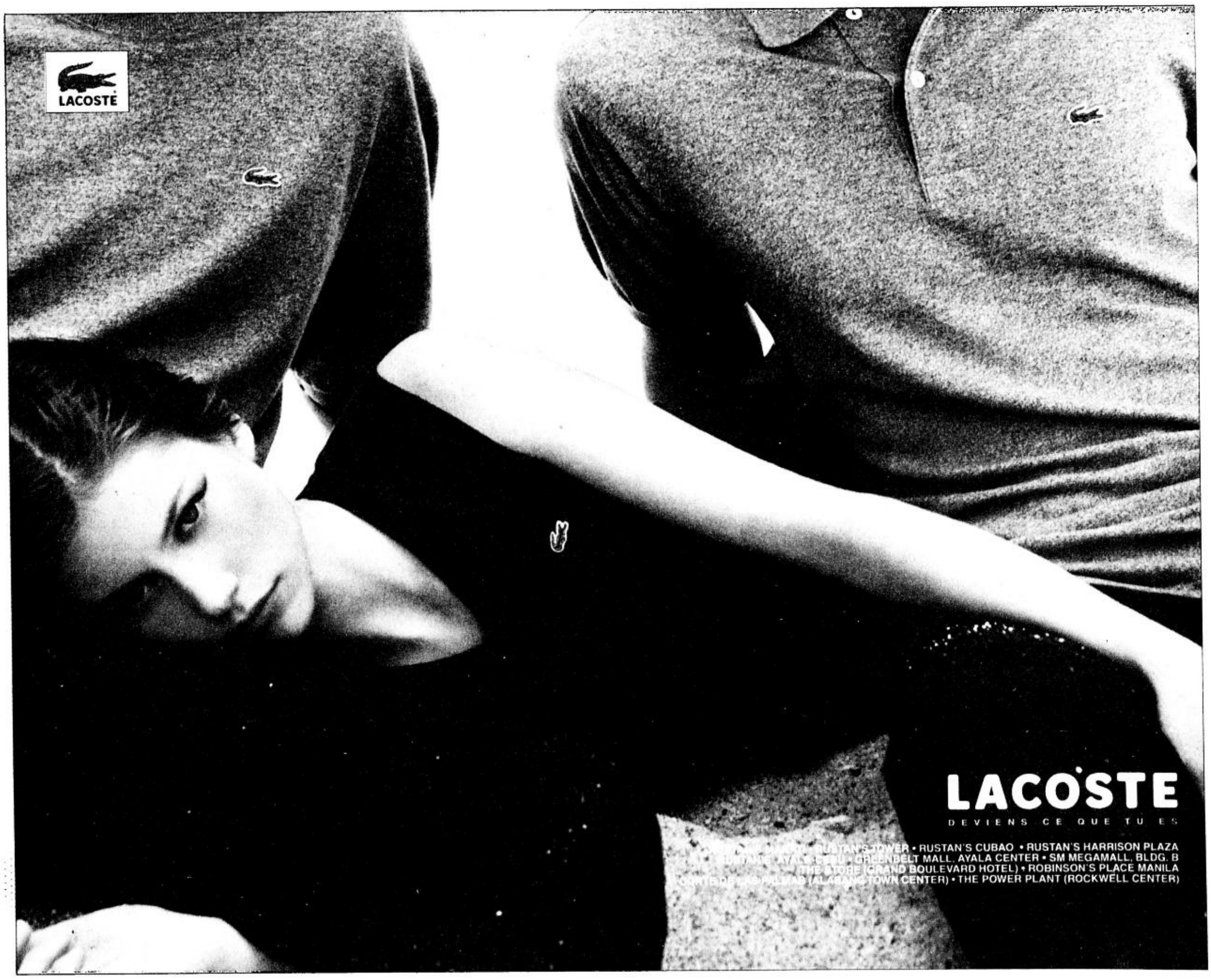


The cable guy

When you're a Magsaysay, 'the other family business' is politics

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES

HE may be the grandson of the late President Ramon Magsaysay Sr. and the son of re-electionist senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., but Paco Magsaysay says, "Politics excites me, but it excites me as an outsider. I've seen my dad work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's hard work."

Does that mean he has no intentions of being a third-generation politician? "I'm attracted to politics but I don't think I'm cut out for it," says the 33-year-old president of Asian Vision Cable Holdings Inc., a cable television company which his father started in 1972.

Paco admits that there are advantages to being a Magsaysay. "Automatically, people give you a certain amount of respect because of what my *lolo* left as legacy." But because he lived in the US for a long time, Paco didn't get to enjoy what came with the name that much.

"To the Americans, it's such a weird name. I was living in Texas and it wasn't a regular Anglo name nor a regular Hispanic name. It was even harder for me to get a job because you handed them your resumé and they looked at it and here was an Oriental-looking guy with a difficult name," he says.

Paco was raised in the United States. He finished business management at St. Thomas University in Texas. He would come back to the Philippines at least once a year and stay with his dad for brief vacations. He would go with his dad to the office and join him on his out-of-town trips to check out their cable TV business. "We tried to spend time together that way," says Paco.

After college, Paco worked for a long-distance telephone company in the US for a year. He moved back to the Philippines in 1993 with his Japanese wife Chiho and kids, Jaime, now 7, Miguel, 5, and Carmen, 3, the only granddaughter of his dad. His sister, Marga, who's now based in Massachusetts, has two boys also.

"Actually, I've gotten a lot closer to my Dad since I became a parent myself," says Paco. "Now we talk to each other almost every day and we live quite near each other in Alabang."

The senator is "a hands-off dad" according to Paco in the sense that "he allows me to learn on my own, like if I make a mistake or whatever. He lets me experience it. But he's a very protective dad. He once told me never to buy or learn to ride a motorcycle."

Issues of integrity

In business, his father gives him guidelines and lessons on the virtues of integrity, honesty and hardwork. But beyond that, Paco admits he is pretty much on his own.

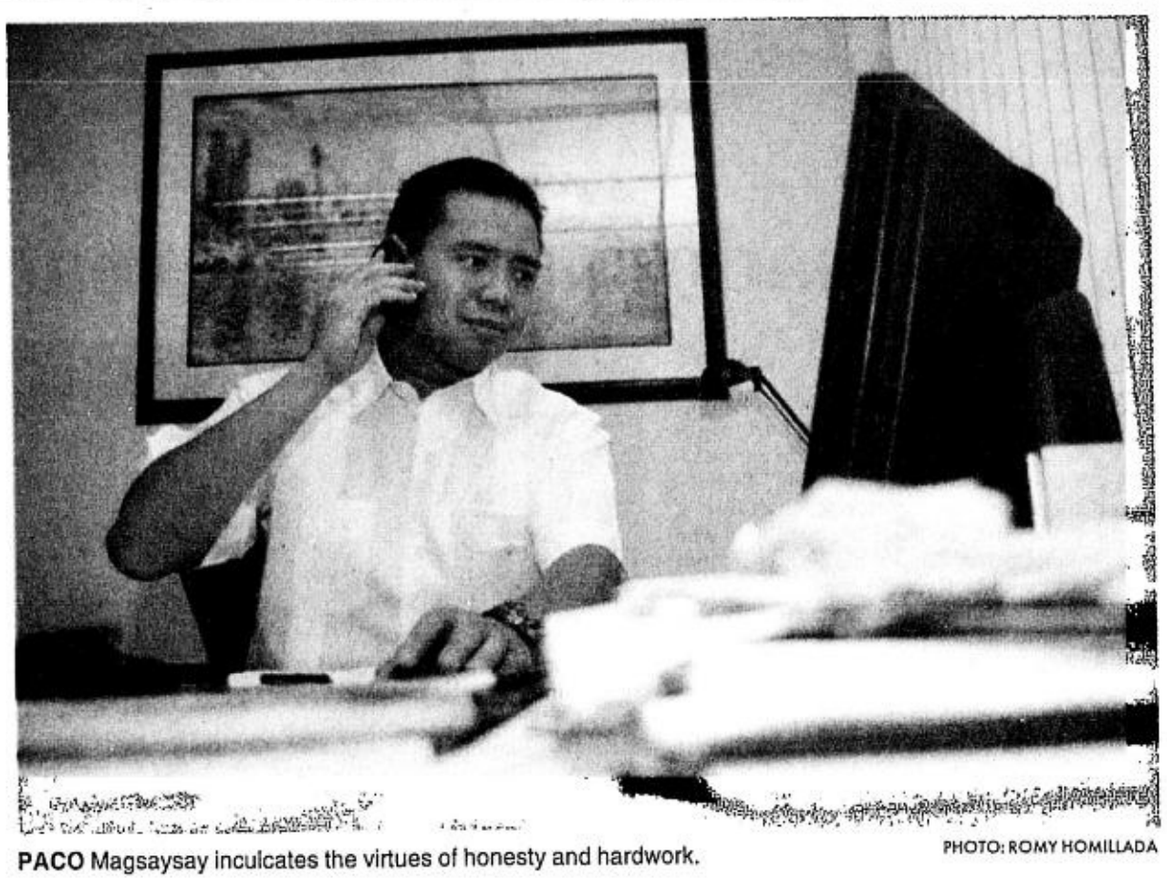
He recalls one incident in the US when he was 16. "My dad visited me in Houston and we watched a movie. He likes to see good movies." They went to a Cineplex, which is a complex of several theaters. In the middle of the movie, he asked his dad to go with him to the restroom where he purposely lingered awhile. "What are we doing here?" Jun Magsaysay asked his son. Paco then led his dad out of the restroom and into another movie. When Magsaysay realized what they had just done, he stood up and took Paco outside. "You know it's not right what you're doing," he said to Paco. "You're trying to watch two movies and you only paid for one. Even if all your friends are doing it, it doesn't make it right so don't do it again." The incident made Paco realize how his dad really felt about issues of honesty and trust. "He's very strict about crossing a certain line," notes Paco.

Ironically, the things Paco doesn't like about his father are the same qualities that have endeared the senator to his constituents. "I think my dad is too nice. I think some people are taking advantage of him. I guess I'm more black and white than him. If somebody does something that I don't like I just shy away from that person. But, my dad says you don't always have the choice of who you deal with. In life, you deal with all sorts of people," he says.

The campaigns have given Paco the best opportunity to learn how to interact with different kinds of people. On his trips to Cebu, Davao and other cities in line with his cable TV business, he campaigns for his dad, who is gunning for another shot at Senate. But Paco vows to concentrate again on his cable business after the elections and continue to avoid the lure of the "other family business," which is politics.

"And when that happens," says the cable guy who got his father's eyes and smile, "I'll be really bored!"

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



PACO Magsaysay inculcates the virtues of honesty and hardwork. PHOTO: ROMY HOMILLADA

Ambassadorial dream reaches 50

(From page G1)

gram formally began with a testimonial from Johnny Litton, a dear and longtime family friend. The two-part entertainment fare was hosted by the ambassador's youngest daughter Maritess and grandchildren Anton Huang, Donnie Tantoco and Rica de Jesus.

The first part featured international acclaimed Filipina piano wizard Cecile Licad with the Philippines Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Italian conductor Ruggero Barbieri. Clearly in top form, Licad played Liszt's difficult Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 and Rachmaninoff's beloved Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18. The virtuoso performance earned Licad a standing ovation, even if the guests endured momentary inconvenience when the air-conditioned was turned off during her performance. The shut-off was requested by the ever-consummate artist because the hum and hiss from the air-con units was proving to be a distraction.

The second half was a dazzling fashion revue presenting the collections of Rustan's top house designers—Criselda Lontok, Larrie Silva and Rhett Eala. The grand finale was a scintillating tribute to Oleg Cassini, the first world-class designer to be contracted exclusively by Rustan's.

Cassini's creations were modeled by 10 of Manila's most glamorous women, namely international beauty titlists Margie Moran-Floirendo and Aurora Pijuan, Nini Licaros, Minnie Jentes, Baby Fernando, Rosanna Escudero, Mavis Fuentebella, Patricia Borromeo, Camille Reyes and the exquisite Nina Herrera-Huang. They were a sight to behold as they gracefully walked on the runway to the beautiful music of the PPO playing such immortal tunes as Velez-San Pedro's "Sa Kabukiran," Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig," Puccini's "La Fregenda," Von Suppe's "Poet and Peasants" and Rossini's rousing "William Tell Overture."

AMBASSADOR Tantoco is being congratulated by his children after the Mass as Bishop Yalung looks on. From left, Victor and Marilen Valbuena, Maritess Tantoco and Marilou Pineda, Menchu Lopez, Rico Tantoco, Eddie Pineda and Nena Tantoco

THE GRANDCHILDREN, Anton Huang, Emmanuel Pineda and Catherine Huang

WITH HIS close friend Col. Zoilo Estrella, his brother Recio, his nephew Eduard and his childhood friend and classmate, Jose Lomotan

BISHOP Yalung gives a Plaque of Appreciation to Ambassador Tantoco for the help he extended for the renovation of the Shrine. The ambassador and his family are devotees of the Sacred Heart.

REV. Fr. Pericles Fajardo, associate pastor of Sacred Heart; Rev. Fr. Matthew Blockley, guest priest; Msgr. Michael Wrenn, pariest priest of St. John the Evangelist in New York; main celebrant Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, auxiliary bishop of Manila and rector of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart; Msgr. Francisco Tantoco, executive director of Caritas Manila; Msgr. Norberto Coronel, and Fr. Rufino Yabut, vice rector of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart

BISHOP Yalung gives his blessings to the celebrator who is surrounded by his children and grandchildren, Michael Huang, Quito Lopez, Menchu Lopez, Chris and MJ Espino, Eman and Dino Pineda, Maritess Tantoco and Victor Valbuena

As balloons, painted in gold, silver and platinum, were unleashed from the ceiling of The Tent, the presentation ended in a lighthearted note as a giant cake was wheeled into the center of the stage where the country's Latin dancesport champion Belinda Adora popped out dressed in a skimpy ballroom outfit. It was the cue for Ambassador Tantoco's six children and their spouses (Rico and Nena, Nedy and devoted companion Patrick Jacinto, Merle and Eddie Pineda, Menchu and Jun Lopez, Marilen and Victor Valbuena and *soltera* Maritess), his 22 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren to come on stage and kiss and hug the beaming birthday celebrator.

Good taste

Ambassador Tantoco at 80 continues to be the quintessence of the elegance, class and good taste that Rustan's has become identified with. These are the very same elements that inspired and guided Benny and Glecy's vision to give the best that the world has to offer to Filipinos, and in time, what Filipinos can offer to the world.

Benny and Glecy were visionaries clearly ahead of their time. They were thinking global long before the word became the buzzword in today's highly technologized commerce. And their vision became a reality emulated by others in the same line of entrepreneurship. Today, few would argue that Rustan's, as well as the other business units that now comprised the Rustan's Group of Companies (RGOC), has established a distinct and enviable image that is "classy but not condescending, sophisticated by not pretentious, elegant but not ostentatious and upscale but not unreachable." Truly, Benny and Glecy have created a retailing empire "where shopping is a pleasure."

Rustan's a solid gold at 50 and Ambassador Benny Tantoco an enduring platinum at 80. Two truly sterling events. But as the ambassador says with pride and certainty, "Stick around for another 50 years because I have many more promises to keep and many more miles to go!" Right on!

Actor's Actors stages drama at Greenbelt

IT has been called "tightly written," "powerful" and "moving." Bart Guingona's performance "shines" and is "a joy to watch." Chris Millado's direction has been called "brilliant," and the mother-daughter tandem of Nieves Campa and Miren Alvarez lead the "wonderful ensemble" of individual performances.

Actor's Actors Inc. brings its much-acclaimed "Mother Tongue" by Paul Stephen Lim to Onstage Greenbelt for two more performances. Also featured in the cast is Richard Cunanan, Kate Fernandez and Bobby Greenwood.

"Mother Tongue" is a semi-autobiographical drama-comedy by a Chinese Filipino expatriate in the United States who teaches English at Kansas University. The play examines David Lee's life, loves, lineage and aspirations through the veil of an all-too-Oriental psyche embodied by two incarnations of his mother—the young picture bride from Amoy and the aging battle axe in Manila—who seem to permanently share the stage of David's thoughts.

In scenes that are clever and touching, the audience alternately becomes David's students and companions in his odyssey of self-discovery.

"Mother Tongue" goes to Onstage, Greenbelt on May 18 and 19, 8 p.m. Call AAI at 536-5844 or Onstage Greenbelt at 752-7862 or 893-6767.

BART Guingona and Kate Fernandez

Basic guitar course

AN EASY course on basic guitar for children and adults (12 years old and above) will be held on May 15-June 1 at Philippine Center for Economic Development (PCED), UP Campus, Diliman, QC. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Fridays, 1-3 p.m.

Pop-jazz guitarist JCO Razon will conduct the course. JCO has performed in various venues here and abroad and has been teaching guitar since his return after a stint of many years leading a guitar trio in Korea and other Asian countries. Call 375-8371 or 948-4739.

BAZAAR. Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang is holding an Antiques and Furniture Fair at The Bazaar, 10 a.m.-8 p.m on weekdays and until 9 p.m. on weekends. The bazaar is ongoing until May 26. The Antiques and Furniture Fair offers a wide array of furniture pieces, bric-a-brac of antiques and other interesting items. Call 850-3512.

GOINGS-ON

PROMO. National Bookstore gives shoppers a chance to win 50-percent savings on their back-to-school purchases every day from May 15-June 4, with their "Instant Winner sa Lucky Counter" promo.

Each day, a different product will be highlighted. The featured product of the day will be announced in all National Bookstore branches, print ads and on radio stations. A minimum of seven customers a day in each branch will be given a chance to win during the 21-day promo period. Visit the National Bookstore branch nearest you.

SEMINAR. Brahma Kumaris offers free service seminar dubbed "The Power of Positive Thoughts," tomorrow, 9 a.m.-12 nn. Call 890-7960 or e-mail bkmanila@I-next.net.

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP. Adarna House, Page One The Bookshop and Family Reader Magazine present "Kuwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids," May 15-18, at Page One The Bookshop, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Fun and exciting activities such as storytelling sessions, clay modeling, mask- making, shadow puppet-making workshops, and special performances await kids. Call 756-5004.

WRITING WORKSHOP. Tower Book House offers summer writing workshop for Filipino children aged 9-18 years old. The workshop includes techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening one's style and applying this style in various forms of communication. The workshop also covers essay writing, feature writing, journalism, short story writing and playwriting, reviews of books, movies and concerts. Field trips are also included. Call 815-4938, 815-6925 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

MANAGEMENT SEMINAR. Dr. Mitchell M. Feraren will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Emotional Management," tomorrow, 7 a.m.-12 nn, at Ginhawa Wellness Center, 4/F, The Manila COD Dept. Store, COD Control Gate (backdoor entrance), Stanford Street, Cubao, Q.C. Call 561-4979.

IMMIGRATION SEMINAR. Maple Leaf Training Center, a Quezon City-based skills training center offering six-month training courses for caregiver-employment to Canada, is set to conduct a series of seminars nationwide to discuss employment and immigration in the said country.

The center explained that Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program is a special program to bring foreign workers to Canada to do live-in work as caregivers. The seminar series will be held at the following venues: Room 410 Verde Oro Building, Diliman QC (951-9823); 27 2/F Road Quezon Hill, Baguio City; Room 310 PRB Building, Gen. Aguinaldo Highway Palico, Imus, Cavite; Room 207 Ros-Mel Building, BB Cabahug, Mandaue City, Cebu; 123 Macho Compound, Quezon Avenue, San Fernando City, La Union; 3/F, Suzara Building, JP Rizal Street corner Bonifacio Street, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; and 4/F Pacific Building) Don Rum Street, Laoag City. Other seminar venues will be held in Laguna, Batangas, Pangasinan, Cabanatuan, Bataan, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Explore the wonders of mobile Internet

WHAT do you usually do while waiting for a meeting or a date? Texting? Playing snake? Or just plain people-watching?

Break out of the usual by pulling out a WAP-enabled Globe Handyphone. Log on and find out the latest news at ABS-CBN and INQ7. If that's still not enough, go to Yahoo and check out your mail, compose a letter or two to your friends. If there's still enough time, why not zap a few of your foes away with your mutant powers through online game?

Worried about the cost this entails? Again you can break out of the usual because Globe Handyphone, the country's pioneer in WAP technology, has brought the cost of this mobile Internet service way, way down. And it's letting you enjoy it as much as you want, anytime you want, until May 15.

It's another round of the best-ever Globe WAP rates all day, all night. Business, Executive and CEO planholders get P2 per minute, while those with Advantage, Personal and Prepaid plans get only P3 per minute.

That's unbelievable savings and incredible encouragement to explore the wonders of mobile Internet through Globe WAP. Check out the latest in entertainment as well as highly informative sites available from Globe Handyphone. Share with your friends this best-ever rate from Globe WAP, as Globe Handyphone continues to give all you'll ever need in your hands.

Treat Mom to Mother's Day concert and win prizes

HAVE you told Mom lately that you love her? Now is the time to tell her how much you care and how special she is in your life.

Treat Mom to a special Mother's Day concert, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You," on May 12 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Cinema 1.

Aside from an evening of enchanting music, Mom will also get a chance to win a free Rado ladies' watch or gift certificates worth P3,000 each at Rustan's. Tickets include various coupons that entitle ticket-holders to discounts for as much as 20 percent at selected Shangri-La Plaza shops.

The concert will feature Dulce, Anna Fegi, Michael Williams, Butch Montejo and the Opera. Toti Fuentes is the musical director.

"The repertoire will definitely touch her heart in many ways," says Lito Pagayon of Admix Inc., producer of the show. Some of Mom's favorites like "When I Fall In Love," "I'll Never Love This Way Again," "Every Day I Love You," "How Sweet It Is to Be Loved By You," "I Wanna Spend My Lifetime Loving You" and other lovely songs will make the evening memorable.

"This is a great opportunity for the whole family to celebrate with Mom. Also, we are inviting to the concert all fathers, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters who want to give Mom the best time of her life. This is one day we should set aside to pamper her not just with material gifts, but with the gift of music as well," Pagayon says.

Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall Ticketron. Call 726-1968.

Red-letter day for Moms at the mall

MOTHER'S day is a red-letter date each time of the year. It's Mom's rare and very special day to pamper herself. That's why Family Reader Magazine, with The Wave 89.1, presents Mother's Day at the Mall on May 13 at the SM Megamall.

Now on its second year, the mall affair will not only have the regular entertainment numbers by celebrities and fashion shows, but also a fun, lighthearted search for this year's dynamic Mom (she'll be in the pages of Family Reader!). There'll be games for the kids, classical flute and string tunes, and nearly 20 different booths where Moms can delight in free gifts. She can take home an endless number of free beauty products, food, things for the home, as well as indulge in skin and hair consultations and more.

Go ahead and give Mom a day she won't forget. Bring her to SM Megamall this May 13.

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Metal designer turns cold material into hot art

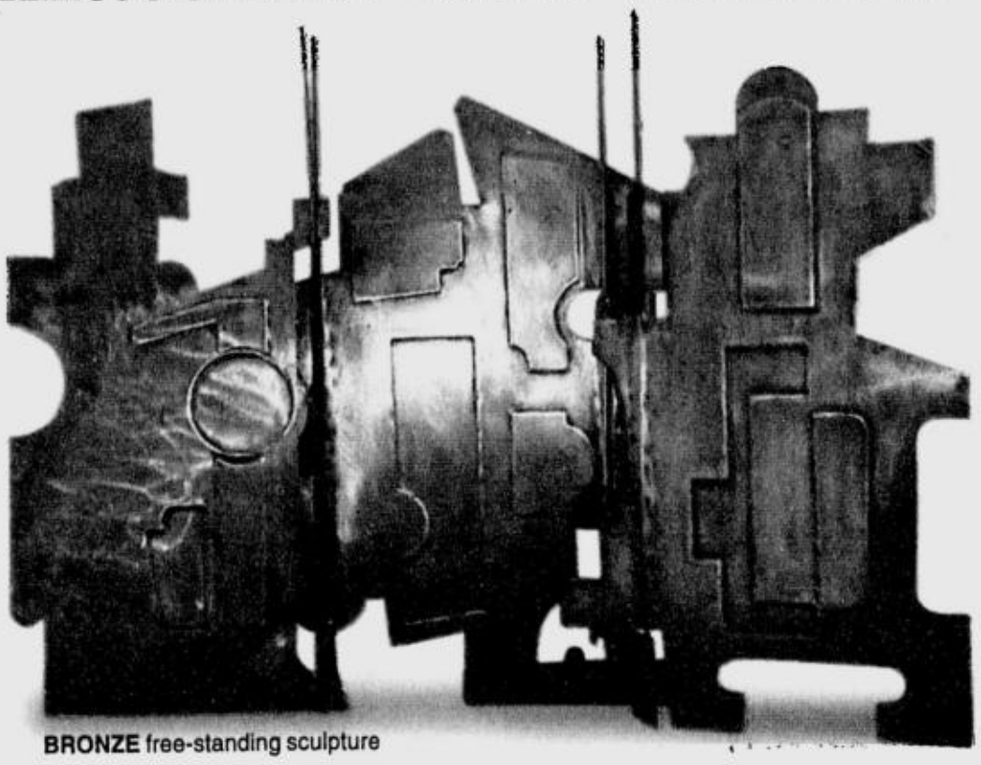
"SQUARE ROOT," cast silver ring shows the relationships of opposite. The title reinforces the feeling of contrast. A root is something organic and unruly that leads to a burst of life. In the artist's life, this burst of energy is the fruit of a discipline. The root becomes the solid pillar that supports the pangs of creation and makes it spontaneous.

BY HARRIET ANN DY

SHE has tried working with paint, wood, clay and other materials, but none has captured her artistic fancy as much as metal.

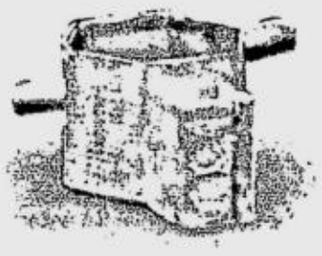
"My love affair with metal came about unexpectedly," says Italian artist Frederica Rubattu. "I had originally intended to apply my skills to designing furniture [but] I only had to handle the material once to develop an instant congeniality."

Rubattu's reliefs and jewelry in silver, bronze and copper are on exhibit at the Luz Gallery. The miniature sculptures have been inspired by places around the country. Most are carved out of copper with ridges and cracks that capture lines and shapes in palm-size pieces that relive Rubattu's many memories of the places she visited.



BRONZE free-standing sculpture

ATOM 1 and 2 in cast silver



Italian artist Frederica Rubattu captures the many faces of the Philippines in metal sculptures and jewelry that are a virtual tourist's map of a spectacular country

Tourist's itinerary

The pieces are virtually a tourist's itinerary of the Philippines and more. The sights captured are Banaue Rice Terraces, Anilao, Boracay, Pagsanjan, El Nido, Mount Pinatubo, Taal Lake and the Tuasaan Waterfalls.

On a more earthy end, she looks back to the past and carves history in "Meydila: The Tongue Shaped Islet" and "Sunson (Luzon)."

To the untrained eye, Rubattu's art may seem like flat blocks of copper with throbbing vein-like lines coursing through a two-dimensional surface. But for Rubattu, creating each piece is not just about celebrating the malleability and creative gift of the material but communicating her innermost emotions.

"I want to show people the magic that lies in this material," she says.

"It does not have to be used in traditional ways to be appealing, like leaving silver and gold in their matte form because it gives each piece a more powerful presence. I also want to show that metal can be used very delicately, almost like paper or fabric, and that this ambiguity only adds to the mystery emanating from the object. Creating each piece, however, is not as simple as getting the next available metal sheet.

"In selecting materials for each piece, I want to draw on the associations that the material carries with it," she says.

Aside from silver, bronze, copper and gold, she has also worked with steel, iron and pewter. Because its surface weathers dramatically to a dark rich color, bronze is a favorite for large imposing structures.

In her reliefs "The Sun Island" and "The Golden Island," for example, she used bronze "because the color would be great because each fragment would age differently... in a symphony of golden browns."

FAN-SHAPED ring made of cast silver with precious yellow metal

Impressed

A metals graduate of Middlesex University in London, Rubattu first visited the Philippines in December 1998.

"What impressed me the most about this country was its many faces," she says. "The landscape changes drastically from north to south; and the notion that this piece of land was once whole and broke to hundreds of pieces through time is simply amazing."

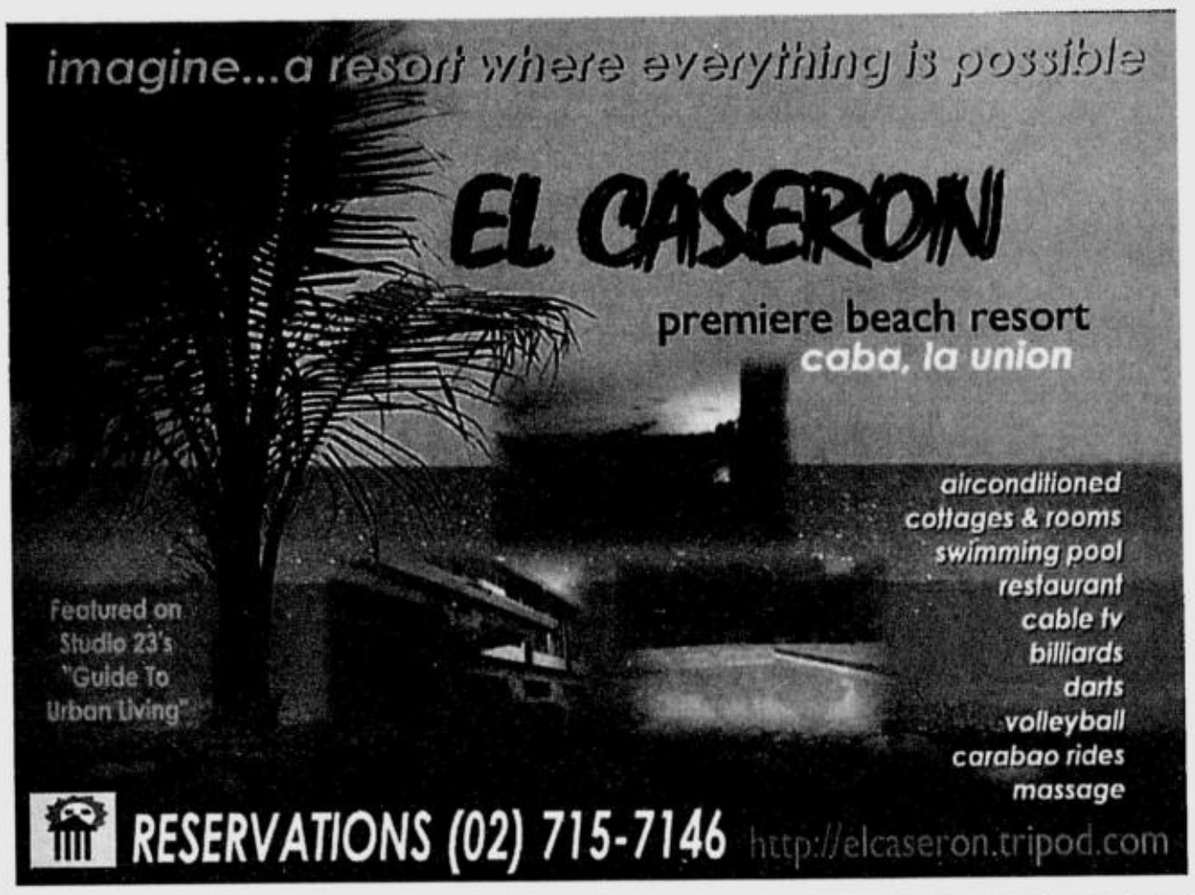
Such incredulity has found an outlet in her metal art. "People think that it's a hard material but it can be very soft," she says. "I think what amazes me the most about metal is its reaction with the flame. A substance that seems so hard at first can liquefy and become very malleable within minutes."

Meanwhile, jewelry and fashionistas will definitely find Rubattu's rings very interesting. Uneven in shape, these figurative pieces are mostly molded from cast silver and mixed with semiprecious stones like opal, coral, scapolite and garnet.

"My rings can be interpreted as a protective layer of the wearers identity and they can also be read as the various layers of sensitivity or states of mind worn on the surface," she says. Often, she models them on her fingers so that even though they may look dangerous to wear, they are actually comfortable.

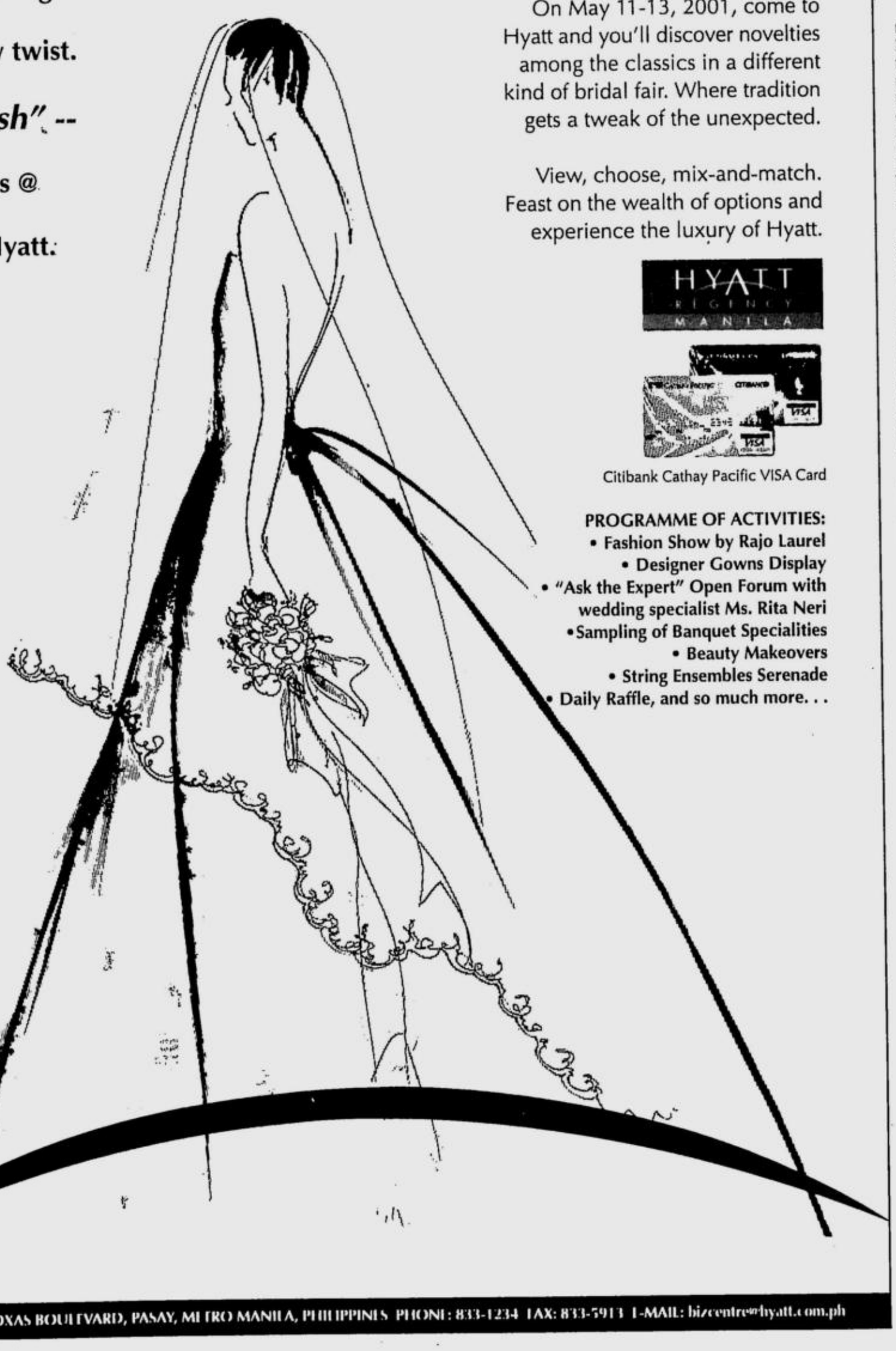
Rubattu's exhibit runs until May 17 at the Luz Gallery.

EVOKING the shapes of a sail



Tradition gets a new twist.

"Fresh" -- Brides @ the Hyatt.



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